Daily Report

Central Eurasia

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Central Eurasia

FBIS-SOV-95-064 *4 April 1995*

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ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 4 Apr

LD0404064195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0611 GMT 4 Apr 95

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Moscow-based newspapers frontpage reports on the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry to Russia.

ROSSIISKAYA GAZETA points out that Mr Perry's visit comes at a time when the "honeymoon" between Moscow and Washington has ended. Russian diplomacy began to uphold its own interests more resolutely without waiting for the opinion of the friends from across the ocean.

However, U.S. President Bill Clinton's forthcoming visit to Moscow to attend the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany indicates that Russia remains a priority in Washington's policy, the newspaper emphasises.

The situation in Chechnya, NATO's eastward expansion, and the sale of Russian nuclear reactors to Iran are to be considered at the forthcoming summit meeting in May.

As far as Chechnya is concerned, the change of the nature of combat actions in the tension area of late eases the situation but the two other issues are likely to remain acute.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA (RED STAR) carries an account of the meeting between William Perry and Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

The newspaper points out that following a one-on-one meeting, during which NATO's eastward expansion issue was discussed, Grachev remarked that Russia does not share the west's approach to NATO as the backbone of the European security system.

The expansion of NATO's area of responsibility will compel Russia to take countermeasures. Among them may be such moves as a revision of the way the pledges under the treaty on conventional forces in Europe are fulfilled, and the establishment of new groups of troops in the most threatened sectors, and closer cooperation with CIS countries.

Nevertheless, two Russian-U.S. agreements were signed during the meeting, the newspaper notes. The first of them deals with ensuring safety during the transportation of strategic offensive arms from Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine to Russia and the other one concerns the ensurance of safety in the storage of nuclear weapons.

Newspapers continue to run items concerning the conflict between Kiev and Simferopol. Russia is being drawn into the situation little-by-little.

ROSSIISKIYE VESTI runs a Russian Foreign Ministry's statement to the effect that Ukraine has threatened to expel diplomats who work at the Russian consulate in the capital of the Crimea.

The consular group, who handle formalities connected with the granting of Russian citizenship to Crimean residents, have been working in Simferopol with the consent of the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry. The Russian side expresses concern about attempts by certain forces in Kiev to present the activities of the Russian consular group as Russia's interference in the internal affairs of Ukraine.

PRAVDA offers its own version of the crisis of power in Crimea.

The newspaper writes that Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma in autumn last year personally urged Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, who had been elected from the Rossiya bloc, to dissolve the pro-Russia parliament, and subsequently immediately repudiated Meshkov's actions. As a result, Meshkov, who allowed the Ukrainisation of Crimean power structures, lost support among the Russia-oriented parliament. The conflict between the Crimean parliament and the president resulted in the resignation of the government of Yevgeniy Saburov who played the role of a connecting link between Simferopol and Moscow.

IZVESTIA on the Crimean situation:

There are mixed reactions to Kiev's actions in the Crimea. Most of Crimean chairmen of city district councils and economic managers view the Crimean parliament's actions as non-qualified and request that they be subordinated to Kiev directly. However, the Crimean parliament made a decision approved by a majority of votes to send a letter to Leonid Kuchma, asking him not to do that and make the final move. But it was too late. A decree to this effect was already signed.

The population's sentiments also vary. According to the findings of a sociological survey carried out by the centre for humanitarian studies, 52 percent of respondents take a negative view of the abrogation of the Crimean constitution, 51 percent cannot agree to the abolition of the Crimean presidency, 25 percent describe Kiev's policy as nationalistic, and only 8 percent regard it as democratic.

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA frontpages an article about Aleksandr Rutskoy whom it describes as "one of the most dangerous opponents" of Boris Yeltsin.

Aleksandr Rutskoy has lauched an election marathon and has mapped out its programme which, in all probability, will be based on tough nationalism and anti-communism.

Rutskoy is convinced that "the basis of future Russia must be formed by a union of Russia, Belarus and Ukraine and that the internal set-up of the state should be unitary," according to remarks made by Rutskoy when he delivered a report at the congress of the social-patriotic movement Derzhava who nominated him a candidate to run for the presidency.

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Reportage, Commentary on Grachev-Perry Discussions

Grachev Holds News Conference After Talks

LD0304120695 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1005 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 April—Russia has expressed serious concern about the intentions of the U.S. Congress to review the ABM treaty and about U.S. plans to test so-called nonstrategic ABM systems. Such a situation could affect the very basis of strategic stability. Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said this at a news conference today on the results of his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

Touching upon the course of talks on the issue of flank restrictions [flangovoye ogranicheniye] within the framework of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, Pavel Grachev noted that Russia needs more heavy armaments in the south of the country than provided for under the treaty. The Russian minister said that a new version of a solution to the flank problem [flangovaya problema] "taking into account the reality of the situation" is being proposed to treaty partners. In particular, Pavel Grachev proposed that conflict zones not be included in flank restrictions and suggested that the required number of armored vehicles and heavy armaments could be concentrated there.

Their discussion of the situation in the Balkans, Grachev commented, confirmed the possibility of a political settlement of the conflict. In Grachev's view, the situation in former Yugoslavia is compounded by the fact that "there are no politicians in any of the Bosnian communities—Muslim, Croat, or Serb—who are disposed toward a peaceful solution to the conflict." In principle, Russia's position boils down to "in every possible way supporting the efforts of the international Contact Group to act in the region only with UN forces, without replacement by NATO forces; using aircraft only in the event of a threat to the peacekeeping forces; supporting the actions of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and wholly lifting international sanctions from it, preserving only the embargo on supplying weapons to the warring sides," Grachev declared. He said there are some differences with the United States on this issue.

The Russian defense minister announced that the progress of preparations for this year's joint command and staff peacekeeping exercises in the United States was discussed during a meeting with the U.S. military delegation. Pavel Grachev said that the talks with William Perry were "timely and very important, constructive, and an important step in the development of cooperation between the Russian and U.S. defense departments."

Giving an assessment of his private conversation with Pavel Grachev, the U.S. defense secretary declared that "on many of the issues discussed there is understanding and agreement, on others important steps forward have been made, and on some more work has to be done."

Grachev Says U.S. Still Suspicious on CBW Issue

LD0304134195 Moscow ITAR TASS World Service in Russian 1122 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Apr—Points of contact between the United States and Russia have yet to be found on the problems of chemical and biological disarmament. The American side "still has suspicions that Russia is continuing to manufacture chemical and biological weapons [CBW]." Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev said this to correspondents today after his talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry.

During the talks the Russian side proposed creating working groups which would "react instantaneously to any information on the production by either side of these kinds of weapons," the Russian minister said.

According to Pavel Grachev, Russia is willing to resume work by experts within the framework of a trilateral declaration, along with the United States and Great Britain, on the non-production of these kinds of weapons. However, a clear interpretation of prohibited activity at biological and chemical installations which satisfies all the parties has yet to be found, and there has been no agreement on the procedure and conditions for on-site inspections.

Touching upon preparations for the START III Treaty, the Russian defense minister said that it is too early to speak of that, since START II has not yet been ratified by parliaments. At the same time, Grachev noted, the Russian side has already weighed up the START III proposals and Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin is already familiar with the specific figures proposed for strategic offensive arms cuts. Russian proposals for the START III treaty may be made public only when they have been reported to and agreed with the president of Russia.

Accord Signed on Safe Transport of Nuclear Arms

LD0304133295 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. and Russian defense ministers today signed two agreements on military-technical cooperation. The first concerns interaction in ensuring safety during the transport of strategic armaments from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan to Russia.

The existing safety system ensures that the nuclear weapons remain intact, we were told at the Russian Defense Ministry, but carriage by railway is not safe and the number of accidents and disasters is continually increasing.

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Under a treaty on cooperation signed today, the United States offers to supply supercontainers for the transport of nuclear ammunition and also technical means, which ensure radioactive materials stay intact, even in the event of accidents.

Under the treaty, Russia will also receive radiation monitoring equipment. The total value of the equipment to be sent in 1995-96 amounts to $20 million, we were told at the Russian Defense Ministry.

Ivanov: 'Full Clarity' on Russia-NATO Ties Needed

LD0304153695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—"Full clarity" in relations between Russia and NATO might open the way to Russia's membership in the Partnership for Peace program, Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov told U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry in Moscow on Monday.

The Foreign Ministry's press release, passed to Interfax, quotes Perry as saying that the U.S. considers the OCSCE, and NATO's Partnership for Peace program to be the basic elements of European security, and attaches special importance to Russia's membership in this program. Without Russia's leading role it is impossible to talk about a reliable security system in Europe, said Perry.

Ivanov and Perry confirmed adherence to the principle of "pragmatic partnership" in Russian-American relations. President Clinton's decision to take part in the celebrations of the 50th anniversary of victory in World War II in Moscow is an important step in this direction, says the press release.

The Russian side comes out for the earliest possible ratification of the START-2 treaty. Pending ratification the two sides must solve such problems as the observance of the ABM treaty and the acquisition of allocations for cutting down strategic offensive weapons, the document says.

Perry Sees 'Great Potential' in Military Conversion

LD0304151895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1421 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Oleg Velichko and Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Conversion of the Russian military-industrial complex has great potential, and more than one billion dollars will be invested in this sphere in the next two years, U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry said during his meeting with First Vice-Premier Oleg Soskovets.

Chairman of the Russian State Committee for Defence Industries Viktor Glukhikh, who attended the meeting, said a list of Russian defence enterprises which are the most promising from the viewpoint of conversion had been selected in conjunction with American specialists. Eighteen million dollars have already been allocated for implementation of conversion programmes at four Russian enterprises. In addition, some 108 joint projects have been agreed upon, and 37 of them are already working.

According to Viktor Glukhikh, the Russian Government has established a "banking pool" comprising a number of major commercial banks to finance domestic conversion programmes.

Glukhikh said a document was signed during William Perry's visit on the allocation of additional 20 million dollars through the U.S. Defence Ministry to utilize nuclear weapons based on Russian submarines and heavy bombers. Earlier the United States allocated 130 million dollars for the purpose.

Minister for Atomic Energy Viktor Mikhaylov, who took part in the talks, recalled that Russia had earlier announced its readiness to utilize 500 tonnes of weapons-grade uranium. But implementation of that project was braked down [as received] by the American corporation. He also noted that the U.S. Defence Ministry and the Russian Ministry for Atomic Energy had signed an agreement on cooperation worth 215 million dollars for the next five years.

Viktor Mikhaylov said another agreement on atomic energy between the United States and Russia will be prepared for signing by the time of the next meeting of the Chernomyrdin-Gore commission.

Russian, U.S. Chiefs of Staff To Meet

LD0304154395 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1435 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—A meeting of the Russian General Staff head and the head of the U.S. joint Chiefs of Staff will be held in the near future to discuss all aspects of bilateral military cooperation. An agreement to the effect was reached in Moscow today by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev and U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry.

The time and place of this meeting will be specified in telephone negotiations, said Grachev. Perry and his Russian counterpart will have frequent meetings in the next few months. This is even more necessary that the sides have progressed and reached understanding and accord on many issues but some problems remain, noted Perry.

In the opinion of Grachev, a new system of European security and plans for the expansion of NATO require additional discussion. "We do not share the Western opinion that this system should be solely based on the

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North Atlantic alliance," said Grachev. "Moscow thinks that NATO should integrate with the new security system and not vise versa. We cannot help being alarmed with the Eastward expansion of NATO and haste showed by the West in this respect."

The expansion of NATO responsibility zones will make Moscow take countermeasures despite its adherence to constructive and large-scale cooperation with this organization, including through the Partnership for Peace program, stressed the Russian Minister.

Asked what the counter-measures are, Grachev said they may include "suspended fulfillment of the treaty on reduction of conventional armaments in Europe, the creation of groups of forces in the danger-prone directions and more close military coordination between Commonwealth states-members of the collective security treaty."

Speaking of the "flank problem" of the treaty on reduction of conventional armaments in Europe, Grachev said that "bearing in mind the situation in Chechnya and the whole Northern Caucasus and Transcaucasia," Russia stands for "excluding areas of conflict and combat operations from the treaty competence in the part of international control."

In the words of the Russian Minister, his U.S. colleague has "agreed that flank limits Russia is having in the South do not correspond to the current realities."

'Versions' Program on Talks With Perry

LD0304220495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian at 1852 GMT on 3 April presents the 14-minute "Versions" program presented by Sergey Dorenko, which will be broadcast daily from now on. He promised no propaganda, just straight information, so that viewers can make up their own minds.

Today's program was devoted to the U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry's visit to Moscow. It showed the delegation staying at the Radisson-Slavyanskaya Hotel and visiting a converted plant near Moscow, which will now make hearing aids. Before, it used to make eavesdropping devices. Perry told the interviewer that "between $30 and $40 million are to be spent on the first cooperation projects" between the two countries, but "it was only the tip of the iceberg."

However, Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the State Committee for the Defense Industry said that American participation in the Russian conversion programs was slight: "Let me be frank, there is more noise than financing and we are dealing with what has so far been insignificant drip-feeds."

The program then dealt with the NATO issue. Vladimir Shumeyko, chairman of the Federation Council, recalled that when the concept of partnership for peace was first mooted, a joke immediately appeared that it should more properly be called partnership for NATO.

"We see the issue of preservation of this military and political bloc as an impediment to our further cooperation in the field of disarmament and in the field of moving forward along the path toward peace," Shumeyko said. Most deputies agreed that "NATO should not expand as a military and political bloc, it should not expand, particularly where its new members might be CIS countries, and under no circumstances should the Baltic countries be accepted as members because if that happened, NATO and Russia would have to conclude some kind of treaty of nonaggression, as it were.

"Our partnership and cooperation with NATO must be organized in such a way that this bloc does not stand in the way of us conducting trade operations involving our military equipment and arms, because for us the question of Russia's interests, the interests of her economy, her conversion, her political situation, is more serious than NATO's situation.

"Well, we had an exchange of views and we reached the conclusion that we absolutely understand each other's viewpoints; that these viewpoints completely fail to coincide but this is surely as it should be here—because the joke is that if two people think identically, one of them is superfluous," said Shumeyko.

Perry then said that "NATO does not see Russia as a threat, just as Russia does not threaten NATO. NATO'S current goal is to strengthen European security and stability and Russia should take part in this process." Perry said that "stability in Europe is to Russia's advantage as well," but this sentence was not translated into Russian.

Andrey Kokoshin, first deputy Russian defense minister, told "Versions" that "the issue of NATO inevitably expanding eastward is an artificial one. I am confident that in a year or 18 months, the picture will look somewhat different from that today. All in all, NATO's expansion eastward is, in my view, a process that is not needed from the point of view of European security and Russian security alike. It will lead to such deformations of the structure as shaped to date, that consequences will be incalculable," said Kokoshin.

Referring to his talks with the U.S. delegation, Kokoshin said: "I think we had a very open and, well, I would say at times poignant conversation on the issue of NATO's membership, but it was a very useful conversation. I think that this process is still a very lengthy one, the dialogue I mean, and no i's should yet be dotted and we hope that the point of view of Russia and the point of view of other European countries that have their own views with regard to the issue of NATO expansion will gain the upper hand at long last and we will build European security on the basis of a pan-European system, without this emphasis on NATO's central role."

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Program announcer Dorenko was interested as to where the line of division between U.S. and Russian interests currently lay. If we go into Poland, NATO will defend it, although Poland is not a member—and what about the Baltic states, are they already theirs or not quite yet? Kokoshin said that the issue was incorrectly posted—"NATO's expansion eastward can create a new division line, a new axis of confrontation," he said.

Perry said that "one more way in which Russia could make a contribution of its own, right now, was NATO's Partnership for Peace. Russia has joined, but is not playing an active part in it. I will call on Grachev to make sure that Russia does not just play a leading part in the partnership, but that NATO and Russia should agree on mutual security—that is to say I will raise the problem onto a higher level than the partnership agreement itself."

Shumeyko then praised the role of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe] in maintaining European peace, while Perry said he would call on the Russian Parliament to ratify START II.

Shumeyko said that in his view "the ratification of this treaty by either the State Duma or the Federation Council is currently impossible."

Dorenko described the controversy that had dogged Russia's $800 million reactor contract with Iran. Russia believes they cannot be used to make atomic bombs and that "it is unseemly to tear up accords under pressure from a third country, even if it happens to be American pressure."

Perry said that his point of view was "that it is not in Russia's interests and that Iranians wish to use the reactors to produce plutonium for subsequent use in nuclear arms, which are more dangerous to Russia than to the United States."

Shumeyko praised Iran's behavior and said that the International Atomic Energy Agency never recorded any Iranian violations of the nuclear arms nonproliferation treaty. He dismissed fears that reactors could be used to make nuclear arms.

Dorenko said that Chechnya was not discussed because "America is too keen to resolve other problems to annoy Moscow" and that U.S. involvement in the Crimean issue was not discussed during Perry's visit to Kiev.

More on Perry, Grachev Talks

MM0404114095 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy: "More Contacts, Fewer Suspicions"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the morning of 3 April Army General Pavel Grachev, Russian defense minister, received Pentagon Chief William Perry, who is in our country on an official visit.

The ministers, talking one on one, discussed questions of the European security system including from the viewpoint of proposals for NATO's expansion. Russia, Army General Pavel Grachev noted at the end of the talks, does not share the West's approach to NATO as the basis of the security system on the content. While respecting and recognizing the role of all political, economic, and other organizations which now exist here, we nonetheless believe that the OSCE should be the coordinator of common efforts in achieving stability in Europe. The expansion of the zone of NATO's responsibility will inevitably compel our country to respond appropriately and to take necessary countermeasures. They may probably include measures like the review of the course of the fulfillment of commitments under the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe, the creation of new groupings of troops on the most threatened salients, and closer military cooperation with the CIS countries, the Russian defense minister noted.

The Americans have a different view of the NATO problem. As they do, for instance, of the ABM Treaty, which is borne out by the attempts announced in congress to break it up into its strategic and tactical components. Or a sphere where unity of views is lacking like chemical and biological disarmament. Commenting, at KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's request, on the situation on the "biological front," Army General Pavel Grachev called the mutual suspicion which remains in this field the main obstacle: For some reason it seems to the Americans that we are demanding more from them than we are prepared to show ourselves, that in Russia work is under way to create weapons of mass destruction of this type. But, the Russian defense minister added, today we managed to agree with Doctor Perry on the expansion of the exchange of information on problems connected with biological weapons and the framework for the work of groups of experts was defined.

Just as optimistic was the assessment of the problem, discussed by the ministers, of reviewing Russia's flank restrictions introduced by the OCSE Treaty. Our position and our views, Army General Pavel Grachev told journalists at the end of the talks, seem to be persuading the U.S. side.

Apart from these issues the defense ministers and the delegations they head examined various aspects of nuclear security connected with the START I and START II treaties, with tactical nuclear weapons, and with the U.S. program to assist Russia in the business of disarmament. In particular after the talks the two countries' defense ministers signed agreements on the rendering of U.S. aid to Russia in ensuring the safe transportation of strategic nuclear weapons from Ukraine, Belarus, and Kazakhstan and the safe storage of these weapons and fissionable materials from them.

In the opinion of U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, the talks were very frank and substantially helped to find points of mutual understanding where there is none as

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yet. At the same time he confirmed the unity of views on other key aspects of present-day international security, which largely depends on cooperation between the United States and Russia and between the two states' defense ministers personally.

The day before, Sunday, the U.S. defense secretary met with representatives of Russian industrial enterprises resolving tasks of converting defense production—the "Istok" science and production association, the Kirov tractor plant, and others. William Perry also met with Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, but as one of his long-standing acquaintances and one of the most eminent parliamentarians and by no means as a "future presidential candidate," as the U.S. press noted, Thomas Pickering, the U.S. ambassador in Russia told your KRASNAYA ZVEZDA correspondent. America does interfere in Russia's domestic political life, the diplomat stated.

Talks between William Perry and Russian Federation Government Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and his first deputy, Oleg Soskovets, and State Duma and Federal Assembly leaders were planned for the afternoon of 3 April.

Range of Issues Unresolved Following Perry Talks

LD0404093695 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0400 GMT 4 Apr 95

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretarty William Perry spent two days in Moscow to prepare the Russian-American summit. On Monday the head of the Pentagon held talks with the Russian leadership. The head of the Pentagon was disappointed by his meeting with Viktor Chernomyrdin. The Russian premier confirmed that the government intends to go ahead with the deal to supply nuclear reactors to Iran in order to build a nuclear power station.

The results of the talks with the Russian defense minister did not encourage his American counterpart either. Pavel Grachev said:

[Begin Grachev recording] We do not share the view which exists in the West to the effect that it is necessary to set up a new security system in Europe exclusively on the basis of NATO. In our view NATO should fit in with a new system of European security and not the other way around, with the security system fitting into NATO's interests. Meanwhile, the extension of NATO's zones of responsibility will undoubtedly force us to take counter-measures. [end recording]

The counter-measures named by Grachev are quite impressive: the non-implementation of the treaty on Non-Proliferation of Conventional Weapons, the creation of new groups of troops on strategic directions, and even another, alternative security system within the framework of the CIS.

So, as a result of the talks, a whole range of issues remains unresolved. However, chiefs of the general staff of the Russian and American Armed Forces are due to meet in the very near future. They will debate all aspects of bilateral military cooperation.

There were also positive results. Two American-Russian agreements on military and technical cooperation were signed, and an agreement was reached to hold joint military exercises at the end of the summer-beginning of the fall this year on U.S. territory. The United States has also reiterated its intention to give Russia some $1 billion for conversion.

Today William Perry is going to the town of Engels in Saratov oblast, where he will visit work on dismantling bomber aircraft. After that the head of the Pentagon will go to Almaty.

Shumeyko on Talks With Perry, Problems With START-2

LD0304153995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—The Russian parliament considers it impossible to ratify the Soviet-American Start-2 agreement at the moment, Speaker of the Federation Council (upper house) Vladimir Shumeyko told reporters at the end of talks with U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry on Monday.

He said that despite the treaty's advantage in the light of nuclear non-proliferation, the deputies would think of the present situation while discussing the treaty while "we closely link its ratification with the overall situation existing between Russia and NATO".

"We consider the perseverance of the NATO military-political alliance in the post cold war period as a stumbling block to our cooperation in the area of disarmament and advancement on the road of peace. And I said as much to the U.S. defense secretary", Shumeyko said.

In his words, NATO-Russia cooperation should not obstruct Russia's arms exports because " Russia's position is more serious than NATO's to us".

Shumeyko said he and Perry stated sharing understanding of each other's positions which are entirely different. "But this is good because when the two people think alike, one of them is an odd man," he said.

On Moscow's nuclear deal with Iran, Shumeyko spoke of having explained to the U.S. defense chief that "the exports of water-cooled nuclear reactors to Iran has nothing to do with nuclear disarmament". Shumeyko described as irrelevant any speculation saying the project could lead to nuclear brain drain from Russia.

Shumeyko: Federal Assembly Not Ready To Ratify START 2

LD0304153095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1427 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

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[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Russian upper house speaker Vladimir Shumeyko said on Monday that the Federal Assembly sees no ways of ratifying the START-2 Treaty at this juncture.

Shumeyko told a news conference that he had informed U.S. defence minister William Perry about this stance of the Russian Parliament during their Monday's meeting.

The speaker described the treaty as positive from the viewpoint of nuclear non-proliferation. However, at present, russian parliamentarians "closely link it to the situation in Russia and NATO", Shumeyko added.

It was quite logical to dissolve the Warsaw Treaty after the end of cold war, but NATO has remained.

"We regard the preservation of NATO as an impediment to progress on the road to peace," Shumeyko said. He added that a majority of Russian parlimentaries believe that NATO should not expand, especially at the expense of the Comonwealth of Independent States. "In no way any of the Baltic states should be admitted", he stressed.

The alliance should not hamper Russia's trade of military equipment. Russian MPs do not exclude the possibility of signing a non-aggression treaty between NATO and Russia.

Shumeyko explained to Perry that "we relate the maintenance of peace in Europe largely with the Organisation for Security and Co- Operation in Europe [OSCE] which includes the U.S. as well as the former Soviet Central Asian republics", which makes the organisation "universal".

Shumeyko said that the issue of Russian-Iranian nuclear deal was also discussed. He emphasised that Iran, being a member of the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, had never violated it.

According to Shumeyko, the reactors which Russia was going to sell Iran had nothing to do with nuclear weapons, whereas the bargain could earn Russia more than one billion dollars. The international division of labour still exists, Shumeyko joked.

Grachev: Combat Zone Hardware To Be Outside CFE Treaty

LD0304132295 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1200 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Shevtsov]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Moscow, 3 Apr—Taking into consideration the situation in Chechnya, in the North Caucasus and in Transcaucasus, Russia proposes that "in fulfilling the treaty on conventional armed forces reduction in Europe [CFE], areas of combat operations and of situations of conflict be designated as outside the framework conditions of this treaty." Pavel Grachev, Russia's defense minister, said this today in response to a question from an ITAR-TASS correspondent after his meeting with William Perry, head of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Russia's minister reckons that this exception to the treaty could be under the control of the relevant international bodies. "The hardware being used in the region where war is in progress should not be counted under the CFE framework conditions," Grachev thinks. [passage omitted]

Kokoshin: NATO Expansion Not Conducive to World Stability

LD0304165295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1516 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—The NATO expansion to the East is not in line with "the genuine security interests not only of Russia, but also with the interests of international stability". The statement was made on Monday for Interfax by Deputy Russian Defense Minister Andrey Kokoshin, who commented on the results of the talks in Moscow by US Defense Secretary William Perry.

According to Kokoshin, it should not be believed that the NATO expansion to the East is an inevitable process. There are deep differences on the score within the North Atlantic alliance.

"Russia and its allies in the Commonwealth of Independent States have enough possibilities to efficiently influence the processes in NATO with the skilful use of a broad range, first of all, of political and diplomatic methods," said Kokoshin.

He believes that "it is necessary to build up efforts for creating a genuinely European-wide, non-discriminatory system of all-European security on the basis of the OSCE [Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe], to develop constructive and mutually advantageous bilateral relations with the OSCE member countries, including France, Germany, the United States and other countries".

"The strengthening of Russia's positions in other regions of the world, the deepening of mutual understanding, first of all, with Russia's natural geo-political partners, is an important factor," believes Kokoshin. India occupies almost first place among them, he believes.

As Kokoshin's recent contacts with Indian state and military leaders have shown, Russian-Indian relations in the military- political and military-technical areas are on the rise following the deep decline of 1991-1993. Kokoshin said that the development of Russian-Indian relations do not run counter to the development of constructive relations with other countries, including China.

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Kozyrev Conveys New Proposals in Talks With Peres

LD0304124895 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1131 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tel Aviv, 3 Apr—Russia's diplomatic efforts as co-sponsor of the peace process in the Near East were the main subject of today's meeting in Jerusalem of the heads of the Foreign Ministries of the Russian Federation Andrey Kozyrev and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres.

The head of the Israeli Foreign Minister, speaking to journalists on the completion of the talks, positively assessed Russia's readiness to help the progress of Israel's peace dialogue with Syria and the Palestinians. In his words, of important significance in this respect is the interaction by Russia and the United States as co-chairmen of the Madrid peace conference on the Near East.

The head of Russian diplomacy in turn noted that in the course of his Near East trip all the partners in the talks had confirmed thair intention to work for peace in the region. Although "considerable difficulties" still persist, A. Kozyrev said, the situation both in the Palestinian-Israeli and Syrian-Israel fields is "serious but not hopeless."

The Russian minister said he conveyed to his counterpart a number of new proposals concerning the further development of the talks process in the Near East. "Russia will continue in future to give every help in bringing the sides' positions closer together," A. Kozyrev said.

Kozyrev Seeks Indefinite NPT Extension

LD0304183795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1537 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Dmitriy Gorokhov and Anatoliy Kerzhentsev]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv April 3 TASS—At the forthcoming conference for prolongation of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT), Russia will press for indefinite extension of the treaty in its present form, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told reporters after talks with his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres on Monday.

Russia keeps stressing that the NPT should have a universal character. It understands quite well the reasons for which certain countries are reluctant to sign this document, including those in the Middle East, Kozyrev noted. Nevertheless, he said, there is likelihood that the conference will end successfully.

Peres confirmed Israel's commitment to NPT prolongation. He made the possibility of his country joining the treaty contingent on the progress of the Mid-East peace process. "Israel will sign the document as soon as peace is established in the region", the minister emphasised.

Kozyrev on Russian-U.S. 'Central Issues'

LD0404080695 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0655 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—The ratification of the START-2 treaty and the preservation of the ABM treaty are the central issues of the Russian-American dialogue before the forthcoming meeting of the Russian and U.S. presidents next May, said Andrey Kozyrev, who returned to Moscow from his tour of Middle East countries on Monday [3 April].

Talking with Russian journalists on board the plane, the Russian foreign minister described as "long-term and promising" President Yeltsin's proposals to discuss at his meeting with Bill Clinton in Moscow further nuclear disarmament measures, including the signing of the START-3 Treaty. "It is very important that both we and our partners see this perspective and consider the next steps on this way," Kozyrev said.

In his opinion, the development of strike space weapons, for which some "irresponsible people" are now calling in the U.S., would threaten to undermine the nuclear disarmament process. In this situation it is especially important to ratify the START-2 treaty as soon as possible and to preserve the ABM Treaty.

Nuclear disarmament is connected with the preservation of the ABM Treaty, which includes the problem of the operation anti-ballistic-missile defence, the Russian foreign minister stressed. Now Russian and American missiles are not trained on each other, he continued, and the problem of the strategic anti-ballistic-missile defence for operation purposes does not come up. Meanwhile, tactical anti- ballistic-missile defence could be a response to a real threat. Such threat does exist, because the number of countries, possessing nuclear weapons, may grow.

According to Kozyrev, in this situation the great powers, instead of competing in the creation of destabilizing global anti-ballistic- missile defence systems, should jointly develop tactical anti-ballistic-missile systems. This could become a mutually advantageous sphere of cooperation, capable of creating new jobs, as well as boosting scientific research and the use of high technologies.

In the opinion of the Russian foreign minister, the choice facing Russia and America today actually boils down to the following: one wrong step may bring us close to the resumption of the arms race, while correct decisions may pave the way to new spheres of cooperation of the two great powers. He believes such cooperation would be

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profitable both for Russia and its partners from the political, military-technological and economic points of view.

Kozyrev on Russia's 'Quiet Diplomacy' in Mideast

LD0404081995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Russia intends actively to use both dialogue at the political level and "quiet diplomacy" methods to give the necessary impetus to the Middle East peace process, Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev told Russian journalists on board the plane on his way back to Moscow from Tel Aviv at the close of his prolonged Middle Eastern tour on Monday night.

When visiting Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Israel, the Russian foreign minister had a "dual task" in mind. First of all, it was a question of strengthening bilateral relations. Kozyrev positively assessed the signing of four inter-state agreements on the development of relations and the substantive discussion of plans for further cooperation. "In principle, we attained our objectives," he emphasised.

As far as the Middle East peace process is concerned, the Russian minister said he toured the Middle East, offering an "array of ideas". Virtually that was a plan prepared as a result of numerous tours of the region by Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk.

Russia did not put forward its proposals as an official project but suggested them as an option envisaging "a certain successiveness of steps, stages, and exchanges", Kozyrev said. The minister referred to the Middle Eastern interlocutors' reaction as "interested", adding that the Russian side will continue to work on these proposals.

Decisive statements by the sides are necessary to get the peace process moving. Israel should express readiness to withdraw from the occupied territories while Syria should promise full-scale peace, including the establishment of economic and diplomatic relations with Israel," Kozyrev said.

"It is a question of chief arguments and major values for each side. Before appropriate statements are made, such steps should be well prepared. This is the domain where 'trusting, quiet, and classical diplomacy' is needed. It is reassuring to us that the political and the diplomatic-technical aspects of Russian peacemaking efforts are viewed very positively," the minister said.

Matters connected with the forthcoming international conference to consider the treaty on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons (NPT) were also discussed during the tour. "During a meeting with us Shim'on Peres reaffirmed that Israel would never be the first state in the region to provide itself with nuclear weapons. This is a very important statement," Kozyrev pointed out.

Russia, Kozyrev said, is interested in the preservation of the NPT, its indefinite extension and universality, including support for it by countries in the region. Everything in this respect rests on the peace process. As long as there is no settlement of the conflict, neither the Arabs nor the Israelis will abandon their positions. But, nevertheless, there is room for diplomatic manoeuvre and Russia is working on that.

As the minister made it clear, the matter concerns a formula for a diplomatic compromise which would enable Arab countries at the conference to vote for an indefinite extension of the NPT.

The two co-sponsors of the Middle East peace process—Russia and the United States—act in close contact, although each side comes forward with its own ideas. "But we maintain coordination in the main thing. In a broader context, we know that we work our way in the same direction," Kozyrev said.

Russia also seeks to dovetail its diplomatic moves with the efforts of the European Union [EU]. "I had a very detailed conversation with French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe and the other representatives of the EU three leaders when they visited Moscow last month. The talks covered both the Middle East peace process and non-proliferation on nuclear weapons. We maintain quite a good cooperation in this respect," Kozyrev said.

Intention To Implement Iran Nuclear Project Confirmed

LD0304144495 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1354 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Serov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—At his meeting on Monday with U.S. Secretary of Defence William Perry, Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin confirmed Russia's firm intention to implement the Russian-Iranian atomic project.

In an interview with TASS, Russian Nuclear Power Engineering Minister Viktor Mikhailov, who also attended the meeting, said Russia was not going to give up its intention to conclude, in full compliance with international law, an agreement to build several nuclear reactors in Iran.

The minister reported that the U.S. secretary of defence warned Chernomyrdin about Iran's activity allegedly with a view to build its own nuclear arsenal. Perry made it clear that Washington would continue trying to persuade Moscow of the need to revoke the deal, including during the forthcoming visit to Russia by U.S. President Bill Clinton.

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Mikhailov expressed concern over U.S. officials' recent attempts to switch the pressure they earlier exerted upon his ministry, to the Russian Defence Ministry, "though the Defence Ministry has nothing to do with the proposed supplies of nuclear reactors".

The minister said he was confident that the Russian leadership would not yield to Washington as concerns the accord with Tehran.

More on Russia's Planned Atomic Deal With Iran

LD0304152895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1428 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—Head of the Russian Ministry for the Nuclear Power Industry Viktor Mikhailov was invited on Monday by Premier Viktor Chernomyrdin to participate in the talks with visiting U.S Defence Secretary William Perry, ITAR-TASS learnt from Georgiy Kaurov, representative from the Ministry of the Nuclear Power Industry.

Kaurov noted that Mikhailov's meeting with the Pentagon chief had not been planned.

To all appearances, Chernomyrdin and Perry concentrated on Russia's plans to build nuclear reactors in Iran under a contract. The United States is trying, by might and main, to scuttle this deal.

However, the ministry consistently advocates its implementation. Kaurov noted that "Russia and Iran have the 1992 treaty on this point. There are no grounds to scrap it. We are obliged to fulfill it."

According to an ITAR-TASS report from New York, the U.S. Administration handed over a U.S. intelligence report to Moscow, showing that Tehran is secretly implementing a crash programme for developing nuclear weapons.

THE NEW YORK TIMES newspaper which printed this report, referring to American officials, notes that the implementation of the Russian- Iranian contract providing for construction of four reactors worth one billion U.S. dollars, would only whip up the implementation of this programme.

Officials admit, the daily adds, that this document drafted by the U.S. intelligence service, which was handed over to Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev by his American counterpart Warren Christopher in Geneva, was called upon to refute a recent report by a leading Russian intelligence service which drew a conclusion that Iran does not try to develop nuclear weapons.

The newspaper noted in the article that the same intelligence service had drawn an opposite conclusion less than a year ago, warning that Iran had nuclear ambitions.

Representatives from the Russian intelligence service in Moscow to whom ITAR-TASS turned for explanations, refuted this statement by THE NEW YORK TIMES. They noted that the report in question by the Russian service does not contradict the previous one with regard to Iran.

According to American sources, the U.S. Administration offered cooperation in implementing several projects to the Russian atomic industry in order to convince Russia to forgo the contract with Iran before May 9 when a meeting between presidents Boris Yeltsin and Bill Clinton is planned.

THE NEW YORK TIMES writes that aid will be rendered to the Russian Ministry for the Nuclear Power Industry in building advanced reactors and burying nuclear waste. According to some U.S. officials, the total value of these projects can top 100 million dollars. Besides, Washington intimates that it can help Moscow in winning part of contracts from an international consortium headed by the United States, which was created to supply North Korea with two light-water nuclear reactors worth two billion dollars each.

In the opinion of the American administration, all this should convince Moscow that its people engaged in the nuclear industry will not remain jobless if Russia forgoes the deal with Iran.

Partnership With Iran, 'Backfire' Deal Criticized

MK0104060095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Anatoliy Mikhaylov, Vyacheslav Alekseyev in the "Deal" column: "By Cooperating With Iran, Russia Primarily Risks Its Own Security. The 'Islamic Bomb' Could Be Created in the Very Near Future"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] After the breakup of the Soviet Union in December 1991, Iran displayed high activity in Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Kazakhstan in luring nuclear specialists from there, promising them high salaries—$5,000 to $7,000 a month—and good living conditions. Furthermore, according to reports in the Western press, numerous attempts were made to smuggle from these republics and from Russia itself some secret components necessary for the production of a nuclear bomb and for the creation of medium- and long-range missiles. Primarily missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons that can reach Israel, because Iran does not recognize it as a state and wants its total destruction. It was not surprising, therefore, that the first to raise the alarm was Israel, whose intelligence service came to the conclusion that by the end of the 20th century Iran, with assistance by Western firms from the PRC, Pakistan, Argentina, and the USSR, could develop its own nuclear weapons and also means of delivering them over any distances. This aroused concern also in Western countries, including the FRG, which, having weighed all the "pros" and "cons,"

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stopped assistance in building a nuclear power station in Bushehr, which required another $3 billion and five years to complete and put into operation. France, the United States, Britain, Argentina, Brazil, and India—which initially intended to sell Iran reactors for this nuclear station but then refused—also stopped their assistance.

In this situation Iran began to rely on the USSR, with which in 1989 it signed an agreement on cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy, and in 1993 Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev signed a treaty on helping Iran to complete the construction of the Bushehr nuclear power station. This provoked a storm of indignation in the West, in particular in the United States, which believes that Russia will thus help Iran create a nuclear bomb capable of jeopardizing the whole world, including Russia itself.

Here, it is difficult to say anything against the Americans' objections. [passage omitted] It is imperative immediately to stop assistance to Iran in building the Bushehr nuclear power station, without at the same time abandoning cooperation in other spheres of peaceful nuclear uses (in particular in agriculture and medicine). It is essential to revise our program of military cooperation with Iran, so as to refrain from assistance in creating missiles capable of carrying nuclear weapons, both medium- and long-range.

Noteworthy in this context is a recent deal made between Russia and Iran in early March 1995 whereby Iran will assemble parts of Tu-114 aircraft imported from the Russian Federation. These aircraft, whose military modifications are known in the West as Backfire, are capable of carrying nuclear weapons over considerable distances. It would be desirable to prevent in the future the use of "Tu" civilian versions for Iran's military needs.

Security Council Commission Lacks Copy of Contract

LD0304154795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—The Russian Security Council's Interdepartmental Commission for a Safe Environment does not have a copy of the contract with Iran on supply of reactors for a nuclear power plant under construction at Bushehr, it therefore cannot judge the deal from the standpoint of Russian interests. In an interview with Interfax Monday, Valeriy Menshchikov, a commission consultant, explained that his colleagues have to rely on press reports since the Atomic Energy Ministry denies them a copy of the contract, regarding it as a commercial secret.

According to Menshchikov, the problem goes beyond classified information and amounts to national security. "Despite all guarantees from Iran, in principle, one cannot rule out the possibility of a sharp change in the political situation in that country in a direction negative for Russia," Menshchikov stressed. "We must able to terminate the implementation of the contract in such an event," he added.

Lukin: Reactors for Iran Do Not Violate IAEA Requirements

LD0304161095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 3 (Interfax)—The Russian-Iranian contract on supplies of Russian-made light-water nuclear reactors to Iran "does not violate international agreements or, the more so, IAEA [International Atomic Energy Agency] requirements," head of the Russian Duma's Committee for International Affairs and member of the Yabloko faction Vladimir Lukin told Interfax today.

In his opinion, the U.S. negative attitude to the contract is caused by the "striving to control the question of who should trade with whom."

Lukin stressed that the light-water reactors to be supplied by Russia to Iran cannot be used in war purposes in contrast to the plutonium reactors.

"The contract costs about a billion. It is one thing if the United States is ready to compensate its cost. If not there is nothing to speak about bearing in mind the U.S. assistance to Russia is much less than the contract cost," noted Lukin.

Kozyrev Rejects Pressure Over Iran Atomic Deal

LD0404054195 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0215 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 4 Apr—Andrey Kozyrev rejected attempts to bring pressure to bear on Russia in connection with its contract with Iran in the sphere of atomic energy, noting at the same time that it is necessary to "carefully check all the steps" in the development of cooperation in this field. In a conversation with journalists on board the Russian aircraft on Monday evening on the way from Tel Aviv to Moscow, the Russian Federation minister of foreign affairs called for "both sides of the coin" to be seen in this issue.

If cooperation in the nuclear sphere is to correspond to Russia's interests completely, to the aims of nonproliferation of nuclear weapons, then, according to A. Kozyrev, there is no need to make concessions, to ask permission from anyone. He spoke about the unacceptable nature of the language of pressure, of the attempts to "demonize" Iran, and about the propaganda-like fuss surrounding this problem on the whole.

Likewise, in drawing up such contracts one must constantly ask oneself the question of how accurately one has managed to be in calculating all this. For example,

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peaceful nuclear cooperation is monitored by the IAEA. But one cannot rule out the fact that experts in the nuclear field can share technologies, and that part of the knowledge conveyed will then be arrogated for other purposes. According to the Russian minister, it is important to avert the possibility of a technology leak, to rule out anyone, especially on our southern borders, providing themselves with nuclear weapons.

We must be sure that we really are taking all these circumstances fully into account, said A. Kozyrev. According to him, currently, using the additional instructions of President Boris Yeltsin on the coordinating role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the sphere of foreign policy, the diplomacy department will insist on all the work that is conducted being subjected to an interdepartmental investigation by experts. It will also insist that long-term state interests and not departmental or commercial ones will form the cornerstone of this. "We must only carry out those projects that correspond to our interests, not yield to the state of affairs, and not be swayed in one direction or another," the Russian minister stated.

Draft UN Initiative To Lift Iraqi Oil Embargo

LD3103094195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0902 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Sitnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations March 31—A Russian delegation in the United Nations Security Council jointly with a French delegation and with the backing of a Chinese delegation is engaged in consultations on a draft resolution to lift embargo on Iraqi oil supplies.

Russia has long been declaring for an adequate response of the Security Council to Iraq's fulfilling the demands of the Security Council's Resolution 687, Sergey Lavrov, Russian ambassador to the United Nations, told ITAR-TASS in this connection. Russia's stand on lifting sanctions against Iraq is well-known, he said. "We act strictly within bounds of the Security Council's resolutions and procedures recorded in them. In its proposals, Russia proceeds from the view that Iraq's recognition of Kuwait's sovereignty and Iraq's fulfilling demands for disarmament under appropriate resolutions of the Security Council have created conditions for reply steps by the world community", Lavrov said.

The draft resolution says that on funds received from oil sales Iraq will be able to purchase goods for the needs of the civilian population which is now experiencing serious difficulties. Humanitarian goods will be distributed in such a way as to reach all sections of the Iraqi population, the Russian ambassador to the United Nations said. An appropriate instruction to the U.N. secretary-general on control over the distribution is formulated in the draft resolution. If Iraq does not fulfil its obligations, the sanctions will be resumed.

Many members of the U.N. Security Council received this initiative with understanding, Lavrov said. They proceed from the view that the Security Council can discuss the question of lifting oil sanctions against Iraq after Rolf Ekeus, chairman of the U.N. special commission in charge of scrapping Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and rocketry equipment, refers to the Security Council an exhaustive report leaving no blank sports regarding Iraq's past military programmes, and stating that a long-term monitoring over the banned arms in Iraq is operating.

Iraqi Embassy Hits U.S. Draft UN Resolution

MM3103194895 Moscow RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Vladimir Shchedrin: "New U.S. Draft Is Headache for Iraq"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The draft Security Council resolution which the United States intends to submit to the United Nations in the very near future has become the main theme of the "Iraq problem." The two views of it—those of the United States and Iraq—are too far apart from each other. In Iraq's opinion, the U.S. proposals to change the oil export quotas would considerably reduce the country's income from sales of this raw material. In the U.S. view, its income would increase.

Let us look at the figures. Under the UN Security Council resolution Iraqi budget revenue from oil sales is not more than $1.6 billion in six months. The U.S. draft envisages increasing this revenue to $1 billion, but in three months. That is obviously an increase, albeit a small one.

So why has the U.S. draft angered the Iraqis? In the opinion of Tariq 'Aziz, the country's deputy prime minister, $600 million of that sum will not reach the treasury, since it will have another destination—$300 million will go to the compensation fund, $200 million to UN agencies, and no less than $100 million to cover the costs of the Special Commission headed by Rolf Ekeus. If the draft is a step forward, in the U.S. view, then the revenue from the oil sales, in Iraq's view, constitutes two steps back.

According to calculations by Iraqi economists, adoption of the draft will allow the Iraqi Government to allocate $7 a month to each resident of the country.

A statement issued by the Iraqi Embassy in Russia says that "the new U.S. draft effectively leaves in force the system of sanctions against Iraq, and completely ignores everything that Iraq has carried out under the UN Security Council resolutions."

Syrian Debt Problem Remains Despite Moscow Offer

MK0104075095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov under the "Diplomacy" rubric: "Moscow Offers Fabulous Terms of Debt Repayment to Damascus. Syrian Policy Wouldn't Budge for That"]

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[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Progress in Russian-Syrian relations is evident. But the main problem—the Syrian debt, which, according to available information, exceeds $11 billion—remains. Last April First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets and Foreign Economic Relations Minister Oleg Davydov visited Syria. During the visit the two sides reached an agreement on writing off 80 percent of the Syrian debt. Russia suggested that the remaining 20 percent be paid partly in hard currency, partly in consumer goods supplies over a period of 10 years. The Syrians insisted, however, that 92 percent of the debt be canceled. At the same time an agreement on military-technical cooperation worth $500 million was signed. In early June General Kolesnikov, chief of the General Staff, arrived in Damascus. No details of the visit have been disclosed. Finally, in early March Syria received an official military delegation of the Russian Federation under Deputy Defense Minister Kobets.

Observers note that by trying to gain al-Asad's favor, Russia is following in the United States' footsteps—the latter has written off a $650-million debt of Jordan. This accord was part of the Jordanian-Palestine agreement. In the case of Syria, however, the effectiveness of this method is doubtful: Unlike Syria, Jordan is fully dependent on new Western credits. Judging from cautious statements by diplomats from Kozyrev's entourage, the two sides have not resolved the problem of the remaining part of the debt. [passage omitted]

Russian-Lebanese Trade Agreement Signed

LD3103132995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 31 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Anatoliy Golovastov, Dmitriy Gorokhov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut March 31 TASS—An agreement between the government of the Russian Federation and the government of the Republic of Lebanon on trade and economic cooperation was signed here today after the end of talks between Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev and his Lebanese counterpart Fares Buwayz. It creates a legal basis for bilateral relations between the two countries, which will give them additional impetus, promote their further development and create favourable conditions for business contacts.

Under the agreement, Russia and Lebanon will grant a most- favoured-nation treatment to each other on all matters, related to trade in goods and economic cooperation. The document encourages the participation of small and medium enterprises in trade and economic cooperation. All payment transactions of trade and non-trade character between the two countries will be made on the basis of the agreement.

On behalf of the Russian side, the agreement was signed by Foreign Minister Kozyrev, and on behalf of the Lebanese side—by Minister of Economy and Trade Agop Demergian.

Today Kozyrev will be received by Lebanese President Ilyas al-Harawi and will hold a press conference.

Obligation To Investigate Japanese Sect Denied

MM3103090395 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 2

[Feature consisting of reports under general heading: "Russia Again Drawn Into World Scandal..."]

[FBIS Translated Text]

From Foreign Ministry—Maksim Yusin, IZVESTIYA

On Smolenskaya Square the Security Council's complaints that the Foreign Ministry did not inform O.I. Lobov of "the reputation of the missionaries and commercial travelers" from AUM Shinrikyo were received very calmly. A high-ranking Foreign Ministry official who wants to remain anonymous told IZVESTIYA that the investigation of the activity of AUM Shinrikyo is not within the purview of the foreign policy department.

None of the people with whom we tried to get in touch could answer the question of the origin of the official telegram sent from Smolenskaya Square to the Russian Embassy in Tokyo in December 1991 with instructions to prepare a visit to Moscow for sect leader Shoko Asahara. "You remember what times were like then," one of IZVESTIYA's interlocutors noted. "The collapse of the Union, total confusion, including in our department." In addition in Moscow today almost none of those who three years ago were in charge of the Japanese branch in the Foreign Ministry are left in Moscow.

So far it has not been established whether any organization asked the Foreign Ministry to provide information on AUM Shinrikyo. It is entirely possible that the people who organized Asahara's trip to Moscow and his meeting with high-ranking Russian figures did not consider it necessary to ask for additional information about the sect, believing that they already had sufficient information.

One more question which could be clarified at the Foreign Ministry is how Asahara got hold of a reusable entry visa to Russia. IZVESTIYA was told at the Foreign Ministry consular department that these visas are issued every year to thousands of foreigners. To obtain one it is enough for an organization officially registered at the consular service department to send an application confirming that a specific person needs to visit Russia regularly for official or other business. The time taken to examine such applications is three weeks, during which documents are checked in the "competent organs" and, if there are no objections, a visa is issued.

How matters stood in the specific case of Shoko Asahara is not yet known. "As far as I know there was no special investigation on th is score," a consular department employee said. There will be no difficulty in establishing

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precisely which Russian organization applied for the issue of a reusable visa for the leader of AUM Shinrikyo.

From Foreign Intelligence Service—Gennadiy Charodeyev, IZVESTIYA

The Foreign Intelligence Service [SVR] took a philosophical attitude toward the explanation from the depths of the Security Council that it was the special services which should have "checked the reputation of missionaries and commercial travelers offering their services to the authorities." The intelligence service staffers explained that they study foreign religious organizations only when there are weighty grounds for supposing that these organizations have links with their own countries' special services or when there is a terrorist threat from them. The Foreign Intelligence Service cannot study all religious sects from the islands of the Rising Sun to Greenland. "The power structures should set the intelligence officers the task of 'working on' the organizations of interest to them. No one gave us any instructions to check AUM Shinrikyo," representatives of Russian intelligence stressed.

Actually, the Foreign Intelligence Service once reported to "higher up" that "chemical weapons are possibly leaking" from Russian Federation territory with the aid of AUM Shinrikyo.

From Federal Counterintelligence Service—Gennadiy Charodeyev, IZVESTIYA

"We have already grown accustomed to the hail of stones that has been hurled into our garden recently," said a Federal Counterintelligence Service [FSK] representative. But the Lubyanka today does not engage specifically in the activity of religious organizations since back in 1991 the KGB fifth directorate which, through its fourth section, used to 'manage' religious creeds, was abolished."

The FSK spokesman noted that of course the counterintelligence staffers were interested in the activity of AUM Shinrikyo in Russia. But by operational means they managed to establish that there was no real threat of any terrorist activity on Russian territory from the sect.

No Russian official asked the FSK to check the reputation of the "missionaries and commercial travelers" from AUM Shinrikyo.

The Japanese journalists who telephoned the Lubyanka reported that, according to them, Shoko Asahara is hiding in a Moscow hotel. In particular the "Metropol" hotel was named. The counterintelligence agents replied they knew nothing about it. And although the prosecutor's office has initiated criminal proceedings against AUM Shinrikyo on these grounds so far no one has given the FSK authority to seek out the leader of the Japanese religious sect.

From State Duma—Aleksandr Sychev, IZVESTIYA

Vitaliy Savitskiy, chairman of the State Duma subcommittee for religious organizations and cochairman of the Christian-Democratic Union, believes that in terms of the nature of its activity AUM Shinrikyo in Russia in no way differed from what it was doing in Japan. There was active preparation for the end of the world, scheduled for 1997. "We have irrefutable evidence from Japan and Korea that AUM Shinrikyo was preparing to carry out an act simulating the end of the world using toxins and radioactive substances. That is not ruled out in Russia either," he said.

A considerable proportion of deputies in the State Duma and before that in the Supreme Soviet," Savitskiy said, "received financial support from representatives of individual sects. At the invitation of 'Reverend' Moon, about 70 Supreme Soviet deputies visited the United States, where they received monetary awards of about $500-700."

V. Savitskiy said that the State Duma received a document from the Internal Affairs Ministry stating that not long before the tragic events in Tokyo a member of the AUM Shinrikyo sect living in Moscow at No. 1 building, 21, Zvezdnyy Avenue, had gone home. At home, his mother reported, he sought out a book on chemical weapons. In Moscow he had tried to get hold of complete sets of chemical weapon analyzing equipment.

After the AUM Shinrikyo sect was banned, the Internal Affairs Ministry document says, all members of the organization left their homes and scattered through Moscow. It is impossible to establish their whereabouts.

From Security Council—Aleksandr Sychev, IZVESTIYA

I did not manage to get in touch by telephone with Security Council Secretary O.I. Lobov personally. Hearing that the telephone call was from IZVESTIYA and was about the AUM Shinrikyo sect, the people in Lobov's reception immediately said: "Ask the press secretary."

We telephoned. In response to a request to answer a number of questions in connection with the item published in IZVESTIYA, Security Council Press Secretary recommended that we submit the questions in writing and send them to him.

"Will that not take too long?"

"It may take a long time, but what is the hurry? Is there a fire? There has been a tragedy and you want to write about it without investigating it."

"Investigating is exactly what we want to do."

"So investigate. Pass on your questions. We are also conducting an investigation. We do not want to get ahead of ourselves but to make a thorough investigation. Your questions will help us."

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Well, we are acceding to the press service's wishes. We are setting out our questions in writing and, considering their public interest, on the pages of our newspaper as well.

1. What is Security Council Secretary O.I. Lobov's attitude toward the IZVESTIYA item stating that he, Lobov, is involved in the penetration of the AUM Shinrikyo sect into Russia?

2. How many times has Mr. Lobov met with sect leader Asahara and what was discussed at these meetings?

3. In making contact with Asahara has Mr. Lobov asked for the opinion of the Russian Embassy in Japan, the Foreign Ministry, and the special services regarding the AUM Shinrikyo sect and its leader?

4. What part did the Russian-Japanese university under Mr. Lobov's patronage play in disseminating Asahara's teachings in Russia? What did this university actually do?

5. Does the esteemed Security Council secretary realize that his involvement in the affairs of AUM Shinrikyo is causing political and moral harm to Russia?

FSK Official on 'Russian Connection' With Sect

LD0304180095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1445 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—Head of the public relations center of the Russian Counterintelligence Service (FSK), Aleksandr Mikhailov, has voiced extreme surprise over the desire by the Japanese news media to wage a propaganda campaign about a so-called "Russian connection" in the activities of the Japanese religious sect Aum Shinri Kyo, suspected in the recent nerve gas attack in the Tokyo metro.

"It is becoming an ugly fashion to right away search for the 'Russian connection' each time something extraordinary happens," he said. According to Mikhailov, "Germany once burnt its fingers on it, when it made unsuccessful attempts to prove Russia's involvement in 'nuclear leaks'".

"I am sure that now the Japanese will also burn their finger on the 'Russian connection' in the case with Aum Shinri Kyo," said Mikhailov.

Answering a question about Japanese suppositions that, following the incident in the Tokyo metro, the sect leaders are hiding in Russia, Mikhailov said that so far the Japanese officials had not applied to the Federal Counterintelligence Service with a relevant request.

UN Envoy Calls For Agreement on Kurds

LD0104141895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1310 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Luchnikov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pskov April 1 TASS—Russia and Latvia should find an agreement to relieve the plight of the Kurds who for longer than a week have been closeted in railway carriages at the Lithuanian border station Karsava, said Roman Boed, an envoy of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Boed returned from his meeting with the Kurds who during a week have been sent shuttling in the train between Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.

Boed's aide Lengvard Khitrov told ITAR-TASS that only a small group of more than 100 migrants are eligible for a refugee status, as was ascertained from their certificates from the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

More detail was given by Nikolay Gorbunov, a member of the Boed-led group. Gorbunov said 120 persons had a prison-style accommodation in two carriages. Armed Latvian border guards allow no one to leave the carriages.

The whole party found itself illegal entrants in Latvia in a venture in which they paid to swindler dealers for promised passage to Sweden. Most were left penniless.

It is difficult to say what the office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees can do for these people now, but it is obvious that Russia and Lithuania must attend to their trouble, Boed said.

West Softer on Turks in Kurdistan Than Russians in Chechnya

MM2903135795 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 95 First Edition p 6

[Article by Aleksandr Krasulin: "Oil Calls the Shots. Events in Southern (Iraqi) Kurdistan Could Destabilize the Situation in the Northeastern Region and on the CIS Southern Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Turkish Army's actions in northern Iraq against the Kurds at first caused perplexity among the world public.

The huge Turkish Army is demolishing Kurdish villages and violating international law, but Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller believes that it is merely a question of eliminating a few hundred terrorists while in other respects the country is maintaining democracy and human rights. Instead of massive pressure Turkey's NATO allies are merely confining themselves to modest protests. The prime minister herself said that Turkey needs international support in order to avoid similar operations in the future.

And this support was received in advance. "This does not constitute an invasion of a neighboring country because the Turkish leadership told us that it still respects Iraq's territorial integrity," White House Press Secretary Michael McCurry said when asked by journalists about the Turkish Army's actions in northern Iraq. "It says that this mission aims only to attack camps

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where it believes terrorists under the control of the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] to be based. We share Turkey's concern over the terrorists' operations. But we have clearly indicated that the mission should be of limited duration and that civilians' lives should be respected while it is being carried out."

However, in actual fact everything seems to be completely different. The military are not allowing journalists into the combat zone, but the meager reports that have been leaked attest to massive civilian casualties. A BBC correspondent reports that a paradoxical situation is taking shape whereby Turkey is giving the United States its bases to carry out humanitarian operations to defend the Kurds of northern Iraq from the Baghdad regime, while on the other hand Turkish troops and aircraft are attacking those very same Kurdish installations in the very same region. And one can hardly believe that all the casualties there are members of the PKK.

The legitimate question arises: Why such a restrained attitude toward the Kurds from the chorus of rights defenders who are actively coming to the defense of human rights in Chechnya, where Russia has been establishing law on its own territory? If you take into account the fact that the massive operations against the PKK camps began shortly after its leaders said that they would not permit an oil pipeline to be laid from Azerbaijan to Turkey's oil terminals in the Mediterranean, the answer suggests itself: The interests of Turkey and many Western countries involved in the "project of the century" on the Caspian shelf undoubtedly coincide here.

Deputy Blames NATO, Turkey for Chechen Crisis

MK0404082895 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Vladimir Abarinov in the "Discussion" column: "The Federation Council Deputy Chairman Predicts a 'Lengthy Period of Terrorist Tension' in Chechnya. A Russian Parliamentarian Has Laid the Blame for the Chechen Crisis on NATO"]

[FBIS Translated Text] By fall 1994 an army grouping was formed on the territory of Chechnya which only lacked strategic nuclear forces and a navy. This was announced yesterday at a meeting with a group of deputies from the North Atlantic Assembly by Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, deputy chairman of the Federation Council of the Russian Federation Federal Assembly. According to Dolgolaptev, during Dudayev's rule several thousand Russian citizens disappeared in the Chechen Republic. The lawmaker believes that no negotiations with Groznyy were then possible.

In Russia, Dolgolaptev said, there is not a single person who would support "war as such." It is necessary to realize, however, that a revolutionary process like the evolution of a new Russian statehood is fraught with anomalies like Chechnya. As for the further course of developments, according to the Federation Council deputy chairman, "The prospect is quite clear-cut: We shall have an extended period of terrorist tensions." At the same time Dolgolaptev pointed to some hopeful signs of "a normal way of life being restored," while, according to the parliamentarian, "We have in our country complete capabilities" to achieve this. International organizations, in his opinion, could cooperate with the federal authorities on matters of preventing epidemics and providing temporary accommodation for refugees.

Yevgeniy Pavlov, deputy chairman of the Federation Council CIS Affairs Committee, bluntly told the visitors from Brussels that the blame for the Chechen crisis lies also with NATO, because Mujahidin, trained by U.S. instructors during the Afghan War, are fighting on Dudayev's side; furthermore, volunteers and arms are coming in from Turkey. A Turkish guest, Orkhan Cilerci-oglu [name as transliterated], immediately took the floor and denied Andreyev's [as published] statement as not corresponding to reality. He also cut short speculation on the subject of Turkey's activity in Northern Iraq. In contrast to Russian troops in Chechnya, the deputy said, Turkish troops are not acting again the Kurdish people but against the Kurdish Labor Party, a terrorist organization, which is recognized as such by the whole world.

Mufti Notes Mideast Muslim Concern About Chechnya

LD0404110695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1019 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 4 (Interfax)—The Muslim circles of the Middle East, particularly in Lebanon and Israel, are seriously concerned about the Chechen problem and ways of settling it, Chairman of the Muslim Board of Russia's Central-European region Mufti Ravil Gaynutdin told journalists.

Gaynutdin was on the delegation which accompanied Russia's Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev during his Middle East tour.

He said that Lebanon and Israel were deeply worried that "Russia resists the efforts to create an independent state in Chechnya."

He also expressed the opinion that the Islamic factor played a serious role in Russia and that the authorities must take this into account "particularly now that society is deeply concerned about the Chechen crisis."

He expressed concern about the declaration of a Christian-Muslim war during the recent congress of the Chechen Muslim leaders. "The war is being waged between politicians, not between Christians and Muslims, so we must tell politicians to end the bloodshed and sit down at a negotiating table," said Gaynutdin.

In his opinion, such talks might be held between the Russian president or prime minister and Dzhokhar

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Dudayev. "Dudayev has authority. So why not make a compromise for the sake of ending the war and preventing its escalation all over the Caucasus?" said Gaynutdin.

As an alternative negotiator during talks with the federal authorities he proposed the Council of Representatives of the Chechen People "trusted by the Chechens." Such a council might also lead Chechnya to elections, he added.

He emphasized that the Muslims of the Middle East would like Russia "to regain the reputation of a great power in the region." To do so Russia should invigorate the settlement of the Middle East problem and broaden all-round cooperation with the Middle East countries.

"The Russian Foreign Ministry is well aware that it would be a mistake to build a Eurasian state looking exclusively to the West," he said.

Military Cooperation With India Growing

MK0104115095 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 5

[Report by Ilya Bulavinov: "An Old Friend Is Better Than Two New Ones"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At present India is one of Russia's main strategic partners, people in the Russian military department believe. Prospects for bilateral military-technical cooperation look very promising for Moscow, especially amid the general decline in Russian arms export volumes. [passage omitted]

Why Does Russia Need India?

Mass supplies of Soviet weapons to India began in 1960. Now the share of Soviet [as published] weapons is estimated between 60 percent and 80 percent of the aggregate armaments of the Indian Armed Forces. The existence of such a capacious and promising market has become a nice present to the new Russian leadership which, after some vacillations in mid-1993, began to restore the shattered relations with India. Moreover, Russian and Indian military people stress, they do not regard each other as potential rivals. From this point of view, the sale of arms to India appears much more expedient and justified than to, say, China or South Korea. In addition to profits which can be derived from arms sales to India, Moscow gets the possibility to use Indian orders to engage idle defense enterprises, to which even an insignificant—by former standards—order can make all the difference. [passage omitted]

More Diverse, High-Quality Goods

A solid base has been accumulated for Russian-Indian military-technical cooperation. In addition to the treaty of friendship and cooperation (sighed by the heads of state) and the intergovernment agreement on military cooperation in December 1994, Viktor Chernomyrdin signed a separate agreement on military-technical cooperation. The 23 March joint statement by the military departments also talks about the intention to cooperate in creating new armaments: a basically new point in Russian-Indian relations. Considering the Russian credit to India to purchase weapons, which has been extended till 1996 (in spite of the fact that the credit was granted in 1992, more than $300 million has still not been utilized), relations between the two countries can be described as model.

Members of a Russian military delegation who visited Delhi last week refused to comment on joint projects, citing an accord with Indian colleagues. The gregariousness of Indian officials and some Russian defense industry workers, however, allows to define the outlines of some future contracts.

So, it was announced at the IDEX exhibition in Abu Dhabi that Russia has concluded a contract for the sale to one country of 12 Tunguska-M antiaircraft rocket and missile complexes. It eventually turned out that the country is India. The terms and conditions of the deal will be finalized in mid-April, when an Indian military delegation arrives in Moscow. In the very near future a contract is likely to be signed with India on a three-year lease of Msta-S 152- mm self-propelled artillery units. [passage omitted] The Indian side has also shown a great interest in acquiring artillery fire control systems. It is possible that with Moscow's assistance, India will also try to meet the shortage of reconnaissance means and assets.

Citing a source in the India military department, the Indian newspaper HINDU reports the sides' intentions to create in India, with the participation of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd. (HAL), capacities for overhauling and maintaining the 60 MiG-29 aircraft that are in the service of the India Air Forces. It is expected that the plant in Korapt will engage in repairing engines while the plant in Nasika will be doing other types of work. The sides are likely to reach agreement on installing new radars on the MiG's, capable of detecting up to 10 targets and ensuring missile guidance on two of them, and also guided missiles with a radar guidance system.

It has also been decided to modernize more than 100 MiG-21-bis aircraft at HAL plants with the participation of the aviation scientific and production complex MiG and the Nizhniy Novgorod aviation factory Sokol. Inspired, MiG complex first deputy chief Anatoliy Belosvet even boasted to INTERFAX that the modernized MiG- 21-93 fighter, equipped with a new engine and target acquisition and weapons systems, "by its strike possibilities will be superior to the U.S. F-16A and the French Mirage-2000, and will be on a par with modern F-16C jet aircraft." [passage omitted]

India's intention to acquire a set of training aircraft now poses the most serious problem to Moscow. The MiG-AT it has offered, in Delhi's opinion, is not designed well enough, while India has limited—virtually on the official

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level—the list of contestants for this contract to the British Hawk and the French Alpha jet. Yet even here there are various options. Apart from the fact that Moscow has again offered its training MiG, some sources do not rule out that the sides will agree on the Yak-130 training aircraft, which is considered to be superior to the MiG-AT. To make its offer more attractive, Russia can also provide licensing and technology for the production of aviation equipment. As KOMMERSANT- DAILY reported earlier, Su-30 MK multipurpose fighters are under consideration.

The future of cooperation in the sphere of rotary wing aircraft is not clear. India has shown interest in the V-80. It intended to lease for two to three years several Russian helicopter squads, but so far there have been no reports of any concrete agreements being reached.

The main sensation story of military-technical cooperation between Russia and India, however, can be the leasing to the latter of the aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov in place of the Indian aircraft carrier Vikrant, which is nearly at the end of its service life. In Abu Dhabi, this information was denied by Indian State Defense Minister Mallikarjun, who said that his country "has a possibility to create an aircraft carrier with its own resources." It is likely that the shipyard in Kochin will indeed go ahead with developing a successor to the Vikrant, but this work can hardly be expected to be completed in the foreseeable future. The Indian military likes to joke: "It is not accidental that the Indian Ocean is called Indian." There is a substantial grain of truth in this joke, however, given its intention to build up Navy power in the next decade. Part of this program will be the leasing of the Gorshkov. True, Russian officials refused to confirm this information to KOMMERSANT-DAILY, but neither did they deny it. Moscow's role in modernizing the Indian Navy is certainly not confined to this. In particular, a set of hovercraft can be delivered.

New circumstances, however, can intervene into the radiant plans. First of all, Washington's jealousy and its insistence in maintaining the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which Delhi is in no hurry to join. The United States has already demonstrated its determination in fighting "refuseniks" by stopping arms sales to Pakistan. The latter has already made an advance payment estimated at $600 million for U.S. fighters, and now the deal is in big question. It cannot be ruled out that in the course of a visit by U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry, which begins today, he will indicate that such broad military-technical cooperation between Russia and India can negatively affect the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Especially since the partners from across the ocean now have some successful experience of scuttling Russian-Indian contracts (cryogenic engines).

Tel Aviv To Ask Russia To Repeat Satellite Launching

LD3003193395 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1853 GMT 30 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Kerzhentsov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tel Aviv March 30 TASS—Despite a failure of the first Israeli-Russian satellite launching project, Israel does not plan to refuse from further tries to orbit a satellite by a Russian carrier rocket. The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology which developed the failed "Techsat-Gurvin-1" satellite, will ask Russia to repeat the probe and prepare "Techsat-Gurvin-2" for the blast-off.

The assembly of "Techsat-Gurvin-2" will begin in near future, Professor Zeev Tadmor, the Technion rector, said upon returning from Russia where he had observed the launching of the first satellite from the Cosmodrome of Plesetsk. "Of course, the failure is unpleasant, but a new scientific technology, especially a space one, does not guarantee a success", he said.

Giora Shaviv, leader of the satellite development team, said that the new satellite would cost less than four million dollars which had been spent to build the first one. Shavib said "Techsat-Gurvin-1" was not insured against failure because the amount of insurance would overweigh spendings needed to create another device.

Moscow To Exchange Oil for Sugar With Cuba

LD0304175595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1444 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax-Ukraine)—Russia is expected to strike a new deal with Cuba in which 3 million tonnes of crude oil will be bartered for 1 million tonnes of cane sugar, Russian Vice Premier, Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Oleg Davydov told Interfax.

He said the decision follows predictions of a sugar shortage in the Russian market, with supply falling short of demand by 2 million tonnes.

Davydov said the new deal could be implemented only within the framework of a special federal program, now that oil export quotas have been lifted and the institution of special exporters abolished.

He said the government had no right to force producers to allocate a certain amount of crude at domestic prices for subsequent exports at world prices unless the State Duma approves such a program.

The minister called for the program to be drawn up as quickly as possible in order to avert price hikes and provide work to Russian sugar refineries, many of which have been at a standstill since early this year.

Davydov believes the measure could help keep sugar prices down, protect more vulnerable social groups and provide employment to 100,000 workers in the sugar industry.

'Ambivalent' Reactions Seen To Crimea Spat

MM0304162295 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Nikolay Semena in Simferopol and comment by Valeriy Vyzhutovich under the general heading:

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"Sharp Exacerbation of Situation in Crimea Hampers Russian-Ukrainian Dialogue"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—As is known, Ukrainian President L. Kuchma has made the Crimean Government and, through it, also the local councils on the peninsula directly subordinate to the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers.

The reaction in Crimea to Kiev's actions is ambivalent. Addressing a session of the Cabinet of Ministers in Kiev, the majority of the city and rayon council chairmen as well as economic planners condemned the Crimean parliament's actions and appraised its policy as incompetent government. They asked Kiev to bring Crimea directly under its subordination. "We were expecting just such decisions by Kiev," V. Usachev, head of the Yalta Council, said on returning to Simferopol.

By a majority of votes, however, the Supreme Council Presidium sent Kuchma a letter asking him not to take the last step. But it was evidently too late—the edict had been signed.

The mood of the masses is also ambivalent. Although there are no mass protests on the peninsula, public opinion polls attest to considerable disapproval of Kiev's steps. Thus, according to Humanitarian Research Center figures, 52 percent of those polled give a negative assessment of the repeal of the Crimean Constitution, 51 percent are unable to agree with the abolition of the Crimean presidency, 25 percent called Kiev's policy nationalist, and just 8 percent called it democratic. Kiev's disapproval of the work of the Russian consular group, which has been receiving citizens in Simferopol at the invitation of the autonomous entity's Supreme Council, has also played a big part in these sentiments. "We tackle consular questions, not political questions," M. Glushkov, leader of the consular section of the Russian Embassy in Ukraine, told me. But the work of admitting people to Russian citizenship was regarded as "a hidden referendum," as "recruitment." The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry presented the Russian ambassador with a corresponding note, and the work of the consular service on the peninsula was curtailed.

A Supreme Council session met in Simferopol one hour before this issue of IZVESTIYA was signed off. The parliament is hardly going to be reconciled to being stripped of its powers and is expected to adopt a decision to hold a referendum on Crimea's status Crimea, although, in the opinion of Supreme Council Presidium Member V. Shpilkin, this will produce nothing—a government subordinate to Kiev will not finance it and, moreover, its results will not have juridical force. There is, however, a great risk that, if this decision is made, Kiev could reply by dissolving the autonomous entity's parliament, as Kuchma frankly declared at the conference with the Crimean delegation in Kiev. [Semena ends]

[Vyzhutovich commentary] Boris Yeltsin's official visit to Kiev, expected at the end of March, has been postponed until the end of April. But the prepared scenario for the top-level meeting of the Russian and Ukrainian presidents will probably have to be substantially rewritten: The recent ups and downs on the Crimea question are creating a new political drama in relations between Moscow and Kiev.

"If the Ukrainian president agrees with the Cabinet of Ministers' decision to make the Crimean Government subordinate to Kiev and to postpone the elections to the republic's local councils, at a stroke of the pen he will reduce Crimea to the level of a colony on Ukrainian territory," Sergey Tsekov, chairman of the Crimean parliament, declared. At the same time he pointed out that he was hoping here for the necessary—from his viewpoint—reaction from Russia, the CIS countries, and the world community, since Ukraine "is most crudely flouting human rights in Crimea."

Moscow's official reaction to the recent events in Crimea (so far nothing substantial apart from Russian Foreign Ministry "concern" at the Ukrainian authorities' closure of our Crimea consulate) appears not just restrained but rather limp and undemonstrative. This is partly understandable, since the hatches of the tanks and armored personnel carriers now flattening Chechnya far and wide in all directions are not the best platform from which to announce advice and recommendations to Ukraine for also trying to resolve its own state integrity problems in the way it deems necessary.

Both the Ukrainian authorities' exasperated reaction to the 22 March State Duma decree and the recent visit to Kiev by a delegation of Russian parliamentarians headed by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the Duma Committee for CIS Affairs, dispose Moscow toward the necessary tact and caution. Both have been viewed as interference in Ukraine's internal affairs. Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov, whose post has been abolished, categorically disagrees with this: "Is Crimea an internal matter for Ukraine? True, Crimea is part of Ukraine, but human rights and their violation are no longer an internal matter for a state taken separately. This affects the interests of the whole world community."

Nevertheless, Leonid Kuchma seems perfectly certain that at the future negotiating table the Russian leadership will not be too concerned about the Crimean population's rights. At any rate, it will be far less concerned about this than about the problem of dividing up the Black Sea Fleet, which, as the Ukrainian president pointed out, remains "almost the only problem in relations between the two Slav states." The Russian version of the declaration on the division of the Black Sea Fleet, which was recently conveyed to Leonid Kuchma, "did not elicit from him any objections in principle," according to First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets.

At present we can only guess at what Boris Yeltsin will take to Kiev. But one thing is obvious: The Crimean situation is not the most favorable background for the new Russian-Ukrainian dialogue.

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Consular Aide, Ministry Spokesman on Crimea Dispute

MM0304140295 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[ITAR-TASS report: "Who Is Recruiting the Crimeans and Why. Moscow Dissatisfied With Kiev's Demand on Withdrawal of Russian Consular Group From Simferopol"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian embassy off-site consular group in Ukraine which has been processing Russian citizenship for Simferopol residents is preparing to leave. The Ukrainian Foreign Ministry has insisted that the diplomats "leave the territory of the Republic of Crimea immediately." On Thursday [27 March] the premises where they had been working were sealed on the orders of the Kiev authorities.

As Aleksey Molochkov, the leader of the consular group, told your ITAR-TASS correspondent in Simferopol, the reason given in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry's note—"violation of the Vienna convention on consular relations as well as of the Ukrainian law on citizenship and the country's constitution"—is unfounded. No specific examples of violations have been presented to us, the diplomat stressed.

Moscow has stated unambiguously that the Ukrainian side's actions are impeding the development of friendly, good-neighborly relations between the two countries. Nikita Matkovskiy, the Russian foreign Ministry's official spokesman, announced at a briefing that literally since the time the consular staffers had arrived in Simferopol there have been statements in the Ukrainian parliament and some of the mass media about the "recruitment" of Crimeans, about a covert referendum, and "other emotional outbursts." The absurdity of such accusations is obvious, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, if you bear in mind that the group consists of just three consular officials and one typist.

The Ukrainian official authorities have become embroiled in this game too. During 10 days' work, Matkovskiy commented, the group was visited by a number of high-ranking representatives of the Justice Ministry, the Foreign Ministry, the Migration Service, and the law- enforcement agencies of Ukraine, who demanded that the group cease its activity and leave Crimea. On 28 March the republic's Foreign Ministry sent the Russian Foreign Ministry a note requesting the "immediate cessation of the activity of the group" of Russian diplomats on the grounds that they had allegedly violated the Vienna convention on diplomatic and consular relations.

The Russian Foreign Ministry could not ignore this demarche, Nikita Matkovskiy said, and on Wednesday [29 March] the Ukrainian ambassador in Moscow was officially told that the accusations made on the basis of tendentious and unfounded information were unacceptable.

Abdulakh Mikitayev, leader of the Russian Presidential Staff's administration for citizenship questions, has called the Ukrainian side's actions "unacceptable." In an interview for ITAR-TASS he announced that the Russian Federation's consular group began work in Crimea by agreement with the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry and on the basis of the provisions of the international convention. The Ukrainian authorities' actions toward the Russian consulate in Crimea are "undoubtedly political opportunism" he stressed, adding: "The problem is not just Ukraine's but Russia's too because the interests of compatriots are often being made dependent on short-term political considerations."

Foreign Ministry Calls for Simferopol-Kiev Dialogue

LD0304160595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1419 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 3 Apr ITAR-TASS—Russia reaffirmed today that it regards Crimea as a constituent part of Ukraine. At the same time, it called for existing problems between the Ukrainian authorities and the Crimean autonomy to be resolved "by means of political dialogue on the basis of compliance with international law and respect for the democratic expression of will by the population of the peninsula."

The statement made by the Russian Foreign Ministry notes that "recent developments point in the opposite direction: instead of restraint, we have seen steps leading to the exacerbation of the situation."

"Russia hopes that constructive dialogue between Kiev and Simferopol will resume and will result in finding solutions that will help stabilize the situation with due consideration given the interests of both sides."

The Russian Foreign Ministry believes that "a more active use of relevant instruments and mechanisms of the OSCE can also contribute to this aim."

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Political Issues

U.S. Seen Seeking Fragmented Nuclear Sector

MM0404094695 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Candidate of Technical Sciences Yu. Ivanenko: "Russia's Nuclear Expropriation. Have They Destroyed Russia Or Not?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This question is posed in S. Govorukhin's book "The Great Criminal Revolution": "That they have sunk their fangs into Russia is obvious. I want to know: Have they destroyed it or not." In my view Russia is still standing—held up by the tenacity of its people who are capable of enduring unprecedented insults and by the potential of what was once the Great Soviet land, but it is still standing, albeit shakily. Whether it will survive depends on many factors, but primarily on whether we will be able to counter a well-planned and coordinated foreign program for its destruction by enemies at home and abroad.

The offensive is being mounted on a broad front: Russians are being subjected to physical and moral degeneration, interethnic conflicts are being inflamed, blows are being struck at the army and navy, and financial enslavement is being carried out. The destruction of the main sectors of the national economy occupies a special place in this program. It is in this very area that the ideologists of Russia's destruction are most afraid of failure. That is why they are demanding that their volunteers [volonter] step up their actions aimed at "deepening and accelerating the economic reforms." Not content with the impressive destruction they have already achieved, they are continuing to prescribe remedies which would be ruinous for the economy and would plunge the country into its death throes immediately.

Many foreign delegations of scientists and specialists in disarmament and intelligence have become regular visitors to Russia. A whole series of U.S.-Russian centers and foundations have been created in the country. The special services are working virtually on a legal footing now. The U.S. Congress has approved the $1.4 billion Nunn-Lugar fund to provide so-called assistance to Russia and the CIS countries for nuclear disarmament. All they have to do is lay down their arms! Our scientists and nuclear specialists have begun to receive invitations to go abroad. The Americans realized very quickly that in many areas of nuclear science and technology, Russia's achievements are not only not inferior to America's but are even superior to them. It has become clear to them that even if all the bilateral agreements are fulfilled, Russia will still be able to match the United States in the nuclear sphere.

They were greatly perplexed by the fact that despite the well-known difficulties here not one scientist or specialist connected with the Russian nuclear arms programs was seduced by the foreign promises. In the United States they could not find a way to persuade the leaders of the Russian Atomic Energy Ministry to take the proposed path of destroying the country's nuclear potential. So then they tried to accuse Russia of being unable to ensure the physical protection and monitoring of weapons-grade atomic materials and nuclear weapons without international assistance.

Essentially the task that they are trying to resolve is to place our nuclear complex under international control. There have been countless statements aimed at discrediting our nuclear complex. This slander campaign involving people at the very highest level is worthy of a separate study.

Such a study would make it possible to clarify the positions of our "well-wishers" at home. Predictably enough, all the claims that Russia is linked to the contraband nuclear weapons materials discovered in the West have evaporated.

Generally speaking, Western analysts realized in 1994 that Russia's nuclear sector was viable, has not been destroyed, and is claiming a leading role in the future revival of the Russian national economy. It entered the competitive struggle in the world nuclear energy market and signed profitable agreements for the construction of civil nuclear reactors in Iran, India, and China. It is well known abroad that the Russian nuclear poweer industry has other equally large-scale plans.

The United States really dislikes all of this. It goes without saying that the Russian nuclear complex with its intractable leadership is a serious obstacle to the Americans' achievement of their strategic goals in Russia. William Perry, the head of the U.S. military department, recently outlined the strategic task brazenly and openly. "The Soviet nuclear complex is like the hydra—the many-headed monster from Greek mythology; there is simply no point in cutting off the warheads, you have to destroy the monster itself, otherwise new warheads will appear."

It will be very interesting to see who in Russia is going to carry out the task that Perry has set and how they intend to do it.

In the February issue of the journal NOVYY MIR, A. Yablokov, recently the Russian president's adviser on economic policy and the population's health but now acting as an expert on Russian security problems, writes: "The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry is a state within a state. When creating nuclear weapons the Soviet leadership amassed an incredible amount of resources (human and natural) and created a closed system which is capable of surviving independently in different conditions." He goes on: "The Atomic Energy Ministry has everything, beginning with the full range of enterprises, municipal services, agriculture, and gold and precious stone mining and ending with its own construction industry and aviation. In terms of self-sufficiency and self-containment [zakrytost] the Atomic Energy Ministry

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is comparable surely only with the OGPU-MVD-KGB system with which it has merged in a whole series of areas, furthermore. Russian society has already long been aware of the danger of such a self-sufficient, self-contained system from the example of the KGB. The solution was to divide that system into a number of autonomous departments under greater state control. The same must be done with the Atomic Energy Ministry."

Way to go, Yablokov! You've done a good job! No sooner do the Americans set a task than you have a solution. You have outdone everyone and are ready to go on providing your services. May God be your judge. The only thing now is that we need to know who is looking after our country's security. The motherland has not been destroyed yet after all. It is tottering but it is still standing. And one of its buttresses is the Russian nuclear sector.

West's Changing Approach to History Viewed

LD0304215395 Moscow Voice of Russia World Service in English 1710 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The presence of the American President Bill Clinton in Moscow at ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary since the end of hostilities in Europe during the Second World War will be a tribute of respect to Russia's losses during the war and the contribution of the Russian people to the victory over Nazism. The White House chief of staff, Leon Panetta, made the announcement in an interview to the NBC network a few days ago. Commentary by Vladislav Kozyakov and here is what he writes:

Paris and London have also made similar statements about Russia's outstanding role in the defeat of Nazi Germany and Russia's losses during the Second World War, which exceeded the Allies' losses. Leaders of the countries of the anti-Hitler coalition pay homage to the Red Army and the Russian people, who inflicted a serious defeat on Nazi Germany in the early 1940's and preordained the final victory.

The truth is being restored. The West's biased approach to history formed during the Cold War is being reconsidered. The West tried to belittle the significance of the battles on the eastern front. Regrettably, this approach was evident even during last year's ceremonies to mark the 50th anniversary of the landing of Allied troops in Normandy. The organizers did not invite Russia to attend the ceremonies. In the meantime, but for the Red Army's victories in the battles of Moscow and Stalingrad, there would have been no victory in Normandy. [passage omitted]

It is heartening that now, in the run-up to the fiftieth anniversary of victory in Europe in World War Two, the West seems to be realizing more about Russia's role in the war. The leaders of the wartime Allied powers, after years of Cold War, are beginning to see history in the true light. This is important not only for the past, but for the present and future as well.

Deepening understanding among countries is the main factor needed to build a united Europe, without barriers and with reliable security system for all.

Shakhray Outlines State Reform Principles

954F1926A Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 23 Mar 95 pp 1-2

[Article by Sergey Shakhray, deputy premier of the Government of the Russian Federation: "Onerous Legacy: How To Administer It"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Among the strategic problems that had to be resolved by the new Russian authorities, that which came hardest of all was federal building. First, "Take as much sovereignty as you want!" then "Make the Federation via the Federal Treaty!" and somewhat later "From the omnipotence of the soviets to the sovereignty of the constitution!" Just as it seemed that all the mines had been cleared and it remained only to "steer" by the proper course, completing the building of a genuine federation, it was ascertained that this was not the nub of the matter. There remained one further old "mine" in our constitutional field—the arbitrarily carved **administrative-territorial arrangement,** which became the Russian **national-state arrangement** overnight. Back in Stalin's times Russia had been divided into two incommensurable parts: the predominantly "Russian" krays and oblasts and the predominantly "non-Russian" national republics. How is this not a field for sport? How is this not a pretext for the creation of a "Russian Republic" and the incitement of conflicts of the type that we have already "had" at the time of the collapse of the Union?

It was confirmed in time that the principle of "Divide and rule!" once made the basis of the Russian structure, is wholly unsuitable either for the new policy or for the modern economy. It was not the least cause of the Ossetian-Ingush conflict and the Chechen crisis. The roots of the impedance of the economic reform also grow out of this to a considerable extent. Our Federation remains a national- state "calque" of both the former Soviet Union and the former RSFSR. And the desire of politicians to "reconstitute" it in the fashion that seems to them the sole correct one is perfectly natural. Some krays and oblasts want to become republics, the republics, to enhance their status by signing treaties with the federal authorities, Zhirinovskiy, to "divvy up everything" into provinces. Some people, playing on the painful Chechnya experience, would like to rapidly adopt the formal shape of a so-called "Treaty Federation" and create new, even weaker federal structures. I, however, would like to initiate processes of **gradual intra-Russian integration.**

The very word "intra-Russian" means that this movement should come from the Russian regions, from life

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itself, and only in natural fashion. There can be no question either of any "provincialization of the whole country" or of any **directive** contraction or consolidation of components of the Federation. This problem cannot be resolved "from above" either by edict or referendum or revisions to the constitution. This path should have its own stages and original strong points. It is about these "strong points," **about the available resources of intra-Russian integration,** that I would like to speak today.

I believe that under the conditions of the current constitution, which no one is permitted to violate, the sole possible means of the accomplishment of this task is a **change in the structure of the organs of federal administration in the center and locally, furtherance of the development of "horizontal" integration, and only on this basis the optimization of Russia's state-territorial arrangement.** It is such an approach that could be a practicable task of the state authorities in the period up to June 1996, which I would designate the **second stage of all-Russian state reform** after the adoption of the constitution.

An important resource of the assembly of the lands is **the reorganization of the federal government and the regional administrations and a reduction in the territorial subdivisions of the federal ministries and departments.**

It has so happened that the structure of the Russian Government has remained sectoral, in the main. The federal ministries and departments, having neither ceilings nor funds nor administrative levers, send their managerial signals downward, not worrying too much whether they have reached their addressee, specific enterprises, or not. The enterprises, however, have become private, joint-stock, and independent. As a consequence of the severance of branch ties and the immense number of problems connected with the social infrastructure locally, they have been forced to tune in to another "frequency"—to their regional superior. But neither are the territories in a position to help them with finances, credit, licenses, and so forth. It has been ascertained that neither the enterprises nor the territorial structures are yet ready for such interaction. As a result, a vacuum of management and a vacuum of production.

Under the present conditions the government is simply obliged to replace the outdated branch principle of administration with the **territorial and functional** principle. And this means that it must employ entirely different instruments also. Such as the realization of federal programs in strategically important territories, precisely calculated investments, tax and tariff levers, the demarcation of objects of ownership, and the differentiation of industrial policy in the regions. Entirely new configurations of federal ministries, and in the regions, functional structures corresponding to the new requirements of government, should appear. There should be a diversity of ways of enlisting the territories in the very structure of state administration.

The subdivisions of federal authorities locally should undergo appreciable changes also. Today, regardless of the type of component of the Federation and the number of citizens resident in it, Russian ministries and departments necessarily create there their territorial subdivisions, which sometimes reach the district and township component. Thirty-three subdivisions of federal authorities and of a further 10 oblast authorities operate simultaneously in St. Petersburg, for example. They all rent municipal areas on favorable terms. The city is "groaning" under such a situation, whereas other centers of the northwest region remain outside of federal "priorities."

The correlation is such that the federal authorities may number up to 3,000-4,000 officials and more in the oblast, whereas the regional administration, of the order of 500-800. There are known instances here of the federal authorities locally, by virtue of great material problems, having been forced to agree to transfer their functions (**control** included) to the regional administrations. As a result the purpose of their original creation is lost and the potential for conflict along "region-Moscow" lines grows. For the purpose of economies in resources and the preservation of federal functions it would be far more efficient to create **"cluster" representations of ministries and departments for a group of components of the Federation simultaneously.** For example, if in St. Petersburg two federal tax offices (for the city and the oblast) operate simultaneously, we should keep just one. I believe that if three or four united federal structures—the MVD, security, information, and economics—had operated for all of the North Caucasus, the probability of Dudayev accomplishing a coup d'etat would have been reduced to a minimum.

The principle of economic zoning not coinciding with the national-state arrangement could also be made the basis of the "cluster" criterion. This experience of former times has come to be completely forgotten today, and the activity of the eight interregional associations built exclusively according to the regional principle has yet to prove its economic efficiency. Perhaps it would be worthwhile giving thought to the country's new management-economic zoning with centers in Russia's large cities.

It is not mandatory, incidentally, for these "cluster" structures to be concentrated merely in one city. World experience suggests that it is more efficient doing this simultaneously in several regional centers.

There is other potential for a downsizing of the "Moscow" staffs also. Thus proposals for a reduction in the number of representatives of the president of Russia in the components of the Federation, with a **single interregional representative** being entrusted with the functions of coordinating the activity of the "cluster" subdivisions of the federal authorities locally, are already being expressed.

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Another resource of territorial-state restructuring is **support for the trends of "horizontal" intra-Russian integration, specifically the stimulation of trends in the joint exercise of powers by the authorities of "contiguous" territories.**

Such a process could be initiated, for example, by the experience of the work of two joint commissions of St. Petersburg and Leningrad Oblast—on city planning and the demarcation of property—formed a month ago at a joint session of the two governments. It cannot be ruled out that the result of this experience will be the creation of common structures in a whole number of spheres of state administration and, possibly, preparations for the future unification of the city and the oblast.

It is important in this connection that the executive authorities of the components of the Federation begin a process of the conclusion of **"horizontal" agreements on the mutual transfer of their powers to joint jurisdiction.** As of the present this practice would seem more efficient than the signing of "framework" agreements between the federal and regional authorities.

Consistent realization of two above-mentioned integration resources would ultimately lead to the optimization of the state-territorial structure of Russia corresponding to modern economic requirements. I would like to emphasize that this line is not an end in itself connected with specific features of the pre-election moment. This task is dictated first and foremost by the threats to territorial integrity and the need for a strengthening of statehood.

Despite the fact that this is a long and difficult path, the dialogue between the center and the components of the Federation on this subject should begin today even. And only thus will it be possible to switch smoothly and "without revolutions" to a new state arrangement of the Federation.

Ilyushenko In Line for Federal Security Service Post

MM0304200095 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

["Own Information" report: "Acting General Prosecutor Could Also Be Intelligence Chief"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A senior official in the Russian Federation President's Staff said that current Acting General Prosecutor Aleksey Ilyushenko is seen as a candidate for the post of chief of the Russian Federation Federal Security Service [FSB] which is to be set up in the very near future. We would point out that under the law, the FSB director, unlike the general prosecutor, is appointed by presidential edict without the Federation Council's approval. For the perpetually acting Ilyushenko, whom the senators have been amazingly reluctant to see in the role of head of the General Prosecutor's Office, it would be manna from heaven. At the same time, the source was extremely dubious about the expediency of such an appointment—according to him, if Ilyushenko joined the FSB the new special service would be discredited in the eyes of the public before it had taken its first step.

Meanwhile, resistance to the creation of the FSB—the law on which was the brainchild of a group of State Duma deputies headed by the communist Ilyukhin—has not waned. Generals Korzhakov and Barsukov are described as the main opponents. They are doing their best, if not to bury the law, then at least delay its signing by the president for as long as possible in order to be able to make major adjustments to it.

Presidential Staff Said 'Plotting' To Postpone Elections

LD0304164195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1543 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] MOSCOW, April 3 (Interfax)—The chairman of the State Duma (lower house of parliament) committee for security, Viktor Ilyukhin of the Communist faction, has said he has information that "the presidential staff are plotting to postpone the parliamentary and presidential elections in Russia."

In an exclusive interview with Interfax Monday [3 April], Ilyukhin emphasized that "today's layout of political forces is unfavorable for Boris Yeltsin and his aides." He added that they were "developing two options for putting off the December 1995 parliamentary and June 1996 presidential elections."

The softer option is that "the Federation Council, followed by Boris Yeltsin, will block laws on the elections of Russia's president and the State Duma" to take time and enable Yeltsin to postpone the elections due to the lack of legislative basis.

The tougher scenario, developed by a "very narrow circle of people," would involve a simulated coup attempt, like in August 1991, in a number of Russia's regions on the eve of the elections, expected to be in November, to sharply aggravate the socio-political situation. Under such circumstances, Yeltsin will have an opportunity to state that he cannot guarantee free expression of people's will and postpone the elections.

Ilyukhin believes "there is certain congruence in the actions of a number of CIS presidents to impose their authoritarian regimes." In the first place, he said he was referring to Kazakhstan, Belarus, Ukraine and Russia.

More on Alleged Plan Alleged To Extend Term

MM0304200695 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Aleksandr Gamov: "Psychic Rutskoy Senses All Yeltsin's Body Movements"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Last Sunday [2 April] Aleksandr Rutskoy, barely installed in the post of leader of "Derzhava," which had been officially reserved for him, made a pronouncement which ought to have emerged a long time ago if not from under his mustache then certainly from the lips of other suffering politicians dreaming of high Kremlin office. According to Aleksandr Vladimirovich's highly confidential information, somewhere on the edge of a desk in Yeltsin's Staff there lies a draft edict on an upcoming all-Russian referendum which, given the right outcome for the current head of state, would extend his term of office by another four years.

At the editorial board's request, presidential apparatus staffers rummaged through the contents of all the desks yesterday, but failed to find the sought-after draft. Either it is hidden in a safe somewhere or it simply does not exist.

Despite what the leader of the new "Rutskoy-people's" party thinks, I believe the second hypothesis is more likely to be true. Judging by the mood of the Kremlin desk heads, they sincerely believe that President Yeltsin's rating, like the level of decline of the Russian economy, has bottomed out and will now begin to rise steadily. And Boris Nikolayevich's own ambitions will scarcely allow him to extend his own presidency by means of a Central Asian-style plebiscite. Then everyone would decide that he regards his own policy as bankrupt and therefore is frightened stiff of elections. But B.N. does not frighten easily. Then again, what difference does it make where he wins—in a referendum or an election?

Although it is perfectly possible that the idea of postponing the presidential election until the end of the century has occurred to politicians. But most likely at the level of Shumeyko, who, when he was in Belgorod the other day, again said: What elections? We must work, not vote!

Aide Says Rutskoy's Election Allegations 'Trivial'

LD0304181195 Moscow NTV in Russian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Video report by Irina Zaytseva with recorded remarks by presidential legal adviser Mikhail Krasnov]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Announcer] The Kremlin was not too worried about the statement by Aleksandr Rutskoy, leader of the Derzhava [Great Power] movement, who alleged yesterday that a decree is being secretly prepared whereby the elections are to be adjourned and the presidential powers are to be extended. According to the presidential legal adviser Mikhail Krasnov this is an ordinary move in an election campaign.

[Krasnov] This is a usual, I would even say a trivial move of one of the candidates. As for a decree, not only have I not seen any draft decrees of this kind, but I have also not heard of such an idea. Finally, where such decrees are concerned, I am more than positive that it would not have slipped through the service of advisers.

[Zaytseva] As regards the implementation itself of such an idea, Krasnov believes that it contradicts the Constitution and would also have undesirable political effects.

[Krasnov] That is, we would have acquired a rather poor political tradition, which would have turned Russia off the path of democracy.

[Zaytseva] The presidential aide also believes that such steps, which in this instance Rutskoy has ascribed to Yeltsin, do not conform to the president's psychological portrait.

[Krasnov] The president is an open politician to a very great degree, and he prefers making big, well defined steps.

[Zaytseva] Krasnov's personal view is that if the president took part in the elections he would have surely come out a winner, because commonsense is in the nature of our people.

[Krasnov] The mission of this president is far from being fulfilled, and maybe the time has not yet come for a president who would espouse other views.

Idea of Extending Term 'Too Petty' for Yeltsin

MM0304144595 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Unattributed report by V. Kononenko: "Kremlin Has No Plans to Extend B. Yeltsin's Term of Office"]

[FBIS Translated Text] That was the comment by M. Krasnov, the president's assistant for legal matters, to our correspondent V. Kononenko, on A. Rutskoy's statement that there was a secret plan to extend B. Yeltsin's term of office by publishing an edict on holding a referendum. This is a routine move by a contender for any particular state post. On the basis of his knowledge of the mechanism whereby presidential edicts are prepared M. Krasnov said: "I have seen no document of this kind and I have heard nothing in the Kremlin about such an idea. Knowing B. Yeltsin's character and human qualities, I can firmly state that such stunts are not part of his game. They are too petty for him."

Zhirinovskiy Comments on Presidential Elections, Ruble

LD3103124695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1104 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Stavropol, Mar 31 (Interfax)—If he wins next year's presidential elections, one US dollar will sell for its real worth of one Russian ruble in Russia, the leader of Russia's Liberal-Democratic Party [LDPR] Vladimir Zhirinovskiy told a voter rally in the North Caucasian city of Stavropol Thursday.

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Today the US dollar sells at an exorbitant price on the Russian market, which, according to Zhirinovsky, serves "the interests of the capitalist West."

Zhirinovsky expects two rounds of the presidential elections of 1996. In the second round he will be pitted against Boris Yeltsin, he said Thursday.

Zhirinovsky sees the present period in Russian history as "far more dangerous than the Tartar yoke and Napoleon's and Nazi invasions." In his view, "nothing short of a Liberal-Democratic victory in the elections will save Russia and its people."

Addressing the economic reform in Russia, Zhirinovsky said that "Chubays, Shumeyko and Gaydar will make good company in one prison cell."

Zhirinovskiy advocated "reasonable" tax policies and government control of the key industries.

Regional Affairs

Overstocking Seen As Factor in Arms Dump Blast

MM0304131995 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[Commentary by military correspondent Viktor Litovkin under the general heading: "Explosions at Maritime Kray Artillery Dumps Are Traditional, Like the Coming of Spring"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Spring fires are evidently not the only cause of conflagrations at army dumps. There are serious grounds for thinking, although military chiefs in Moscow strenuously deny this, that explosions at storage bases also occur because they are extremely overstocked with ammunition. In recent years 1.5 million tonnes of shells, mines, grenades, and cartridges have been brought out of Germany, Mongolia, and Poland alone. This is equivalent to 25,000 freightcars.

But we still have not resolved the problem of recycling all these dangerously explosive objects, and we have no laws on this or serious technologies. Or the money, of course. Not even the war in Chechnya is capable of expending these colossal stocks. This means that they will continue to be kept in old arsenals without proper security measures.

The explosions caused by spring fires attest that the dumps in Maritime Kray are not properly equipped with fire belts, not protected by embankments, and not removed to a safe distance.

Of course, the person to blame for the latest conflagration in the dumps will be found or nominated, and some regimental or district officer will be dismissed or put on trial, but this will not solve the problem of recycling excess ammunition.

Munitions Depot Explodes Due to 'Negligence'

OW0204085795 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Pacific Ocean" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Explosions at Maritime Kray munition depots continue. The events near Novonezhino were barely over when explosions shook the Far East Military District artillery munitions depot in Pogranichnyy Rayon, near Talovoye town. According to the Vladivostok Segodnya armed forces radio station, the situation in the region of the incident has normalized somewhat and the fire has stopped. A special reconnaissance regiment riding tanks and special vehicles moved into the danger zone, which is covered with scattered munitions, at about 0800 [2300 GMT]. Disposal of the munitions is being carried out.

According to the Far East Military District news center, a munitions depot belonging to a Fifth Army regiment was almost completely destroyed by fire and explosions. The overall mass of exploded munitions is estimated at 45-50 percent of the depot's munitions. The remaining half did not explode, but was scattered over 10-15 kilometers in radius. A special combat engineers subunit from Khabarovsk is expected to depart for the area. The Far East Military District commander and a special commission for investigating the incident are already there. Maritime Kray Federal Intelligence Service officials have announced that one of the reasons for the fire was negligence on part of servicemen. Fortunately, there was no serious damage or human casualties in the nearby settlements.

Shells Explode at Elban Ammunition Recycling Plant

LD0204100795 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 0800 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An accident occurred on 1 April in the settlement of Elban, 100 km south of the town of Komsomolsk-na-Amure [Khabarovsk Kray]. Our radio was informed of this by Anatoliy Streltsov, deputy head of the Emergencies Ministry press service.

[Begin Streltsov recording] A fire broke out in a workshop at the Voskhod Plant during the recycling of ammunition. Recycled gunpowder caught fire, and as a result the shells in the workshop began to explode. More than 400 shells were located there. One person died as a result of the blasts. By 1639 on 1 April the explosions had ceased and the fire had been extinguished. The causes of the fire are being established.

Also in Khabarovsk Kray, 96 children and 29 adults in the town of Komsomolsk-na-Amure have been hospitalized with an intestinal infection. Their illness is being diagnosed. Doctors from the Far Eastern regional emergency medical assistance center flew in on 1 April to diagnose their illness and provide help. [end recording]

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Far East Workers Demand Yeltsin Resignation

LD3103124295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1140 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vladivostok, Mar 31 (INTERFAX-EURASIA)—The labor staffs of industrial enterprises of the city of Bolshoy Kamen (the Primorye territory of Russia's Far East) demanded the resignation of President Yeltsin and the Chernomyrdin Cabinet and the immediate payment of their delayed salaries and wages. The public rally in Bolshoy Kamen brought together some 10,000 people.

The deputy chairman of the Primorye labor unions' federation Nikolay Kostiukov told INTERFAX that workers of the Zvezda plant that repairs nuclear submarines and the Era and Vostok plants, as well as men and women on the staff of local trade and health-care centers, attended the rally. They have been paid nothing since last December.

The protesting workers warned the authorities that they would occupy nuclear submarines and declare a hunger strike unless the government squared the debt on wages.

Almost all the industrial enterprises of Bolshoy Kamen are in dire straits. The Zvezda plant alone is waiting to receive more than 60 billion rubles from the federal government.

Ingush President Protests Troops' Actions

LD3103150995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1338 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, Mar 31 (INTERFAX)—Ingushetia's President Ruslan Aushev has expressed "a resolute protest due to the uncontrolled actions of the Russian units which may result in irreparable consequences." He has sent a telegram to Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin, Interior Minister Viktor Yerin, Chief of the General Staff of the Russian Armed Forces Mikhail Kolesnikov and to Russia's acting Attorney General Aleksey Ilyushenko due to the incident which occurred on the night of March 28 when the artillery of the federal forces again fired on living quarters in the village of Arshty in Ingushetia's Sunzhen region.

The press service of the Ingush president reports that "substantial material damage was inflicted on the civilian population as a result of this shelling. There were no casualties among the population, quite by chance."

Aushev demanded that an investigation be carried out and those who are guilty of the incident to be made answerable.

Oblast Soviet Session on Local Elections

954F1954A Novosibirsk VECHERNIY NOVOSIBIRSK in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by Boris Grigoryev: "We Should Learn From Tatarstan—Ninth Session of Oblast Soviet Convenes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For several election districts, there has not yet been a valid by-election of deputies to the oblast soviet, although several attempts have been undertaken. Each time too few people have come out to the polling stations to vote. The question naturally arises: What do we do now—conduct the election one more time or not? In this regard, the oblast administration has proposed that deputies supplement the applicable local law with the following sentence: "In election districts where elections have twice been declared null due to an insufficient turnout of voters, new elections may not be scheduled if two-thirds or more of the prescribed number of deputies have been elected to the oblast soviet." And that the following be added: "If less than a year remains until expiration of the term of office of the soviet of deputies, supplemental elections are not held."

These proposals would most likely not be disturbing to the voters themselves, but deputies began a heated debate of the issue.

"This is a violation of citizens' electoral rights!"—insisted Viktor Kuznetsov. In his opinion, the heads of rayon administrations are to blame to a great extent for the situation that has come about. He cited as an example the president of Tatarstan, who warned prior to the republic elections that he would remove from their posts the heads of rayons in which elections were declared null. Following this, more than half the populace turned out at the election precincts to vote.

Viktor Nozdryukhin expressed the exact opposite view:

"There is no sense in conducting by-elections. The soviet is competent as it is—what will the addition of two more deputies do to change things?"

In the final analysis, when the vote was taken, no proposal received a sufficient number of votes.

This is the issue that aroused the greatest dispute during the session. Deputies were most nearly unanimous in their view of the 1995 program for population employment in the oblast. The only area eliciting some bewilderment was with regard to why some people were being paid unemployment benefits who should not receive them. The following example was cited in particular. An individual is given work in a location where the work-shift method is employed. He gets a million a month, is soon discharged, and then entered on the rolls of the employment service. He is paid an enviable allowance, based on his average monthly pay.

Valentin Grinchenko, director of the oblast employment center, cited deficiencies in legislation—in that he did not have the right to distinguish between individuals discharged because of work force reductions and those discharged for absenteeism and drunkenness. Another problem is that it is not all that simple to find a job vacancy for an unemployed individual where if he refuses, he loses the right to an allowance. This is

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because, once again by law, a job position is considered suitable only if it affords a wage no lower than the average monthly wage the individual was receiving at his former work place. This being the case, what can you offer a former shift worker?!

All the same, deputies approved the employment program, whose implementation cost will come to 85 billion rubles.

Law Makes Karachay-Cherkes Head 'Appointed President'

MK3103123095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Yelena Tregubova under the "Continuity" rubric: "In Karachay-Cherkessia They Prefer To 'Appoint' the President. Today's Council of Ministers Chairman Vladimir Khubiyev Will Obviously Stay on as Republic's Head"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Karachay-Cherkessia Supreme Soviet, whose powers will end in April, has passed a law on the election of a new legislature of this republic, which is part of Russia. The elections for the Karachay-Cherkes parliament ("People's Assembly") will be held 10 June. Its 73 deputies will be elected for a four-year term. As few as 20 deputies are going to work "on a permanent basis."

At the same time, the Supreme Soviet approved a law "On the Organs of State Power of the KCR [Karachay-Cherkes Republic]" which establishes the post of head of the republic. Until today, the republic's actual head was Vladimir Khubiyev, chairman of the local Council of Ministers, who was appointed by the preceding Supreme Soviet. Neither does the now proposed law provide for national elections to elect a local president—he "will be appointed by the Russian Federation president on approval from the parliament of the Karachay-Cherkes Republic."

In a talk with your SEGODNYA correspondent before the law was drafted, Vladimir Khubiyev, chairman of the Council of Ministers, spoke against the institution of a head of republic post, referring to "national specifics" and a "tense situation." However, the federal commission for the drafting of a KCR constitution under Sergey Filatov must have pointed out to the local leadership the indecency of such a frank longing for "continuity" of authority. The finally approved version actually reduces the head of the Karachay-Cherkes Republic to the status of heads of krays and oblasts—to that of "governor."

However, Vladimir Khubiyev, today's actual head of the republic, seems to be quite happy with this seeming "reduction" in status. The Council of Ministers chairman told journalists that this variant of elections for head of republic "is the best under today's conditions." Vladimir Khubiyev must have been unsure of success in real elections should they be called. The position of "permanent leader" of Karachay-Cherkessia (in the Soviet era Khubiyev was first secretary of the Karachay Oblast CPSU Committee, and later chairman of the executive committee) makes virtually absolute the possibility of his conversion into an "appointed president."

Parliamentary Elections Set for Karachayevo-Cherkessia

MM0304130995 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 31 Mar 95 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under "Events of the Day" rubric: "Elections in Karachayevo-Cherkessia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Parliamentary elections in multiethnic Karachayevo-Cherkessia will be held 10 June.

This decision was adopted by a session of the republic National Assembly.

In accordance with the adopted law, the republic parliament will be elected for four years, will consist of 73 deputies, and will retain its former name—the National Assembly.

Opposition-Strapped Tatar Legislature Holds First Session

MK0104125095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 3

[Report from Kazan by Dmitriy Lukashov under the "Tatarstan" rubric: "State Council Holds Its First Session. Mintimer Shaymiyev Pleased With Atmosphere of Accord in New Parliament"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The first session of the Tatarstan State Council was held in Kazan 30 March. Although it lasted just one day, the new republican parliament elected its chairman—just as SEGODNYA predicted, Vasiliy Likhachev, doctor of international law and former vice president of the Republic of Tatarstan, was voted into office. His deputies—Zilya Valeyeva and Renat Haris, both former journalists and deputies of the previous Supreme Soviet—were also elected.

In addition, yet another amendment was made to the Constitution, the new text of which has not yet been published after the deputies put substantial effort into finalizing it at the last Supreme Soviet session. The amendment boils down to the fact that State Council deputies elected in territorial districts, that is, as professional parliamentarians, may now combine their work in parliament with other occupations. Local observers point out that this amendment was passed to cater to the interests of directors, bureaucrats, and entrepreneurs turned parliamentarians. Now they can relax and get down to their own business, even though before nomination each of them signed a form obliging him to quit his position within three days if elected.

The first session of the Tatarstan State Council did not spring any surprises. The few opposition members

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elected as deputies have no effect on decisionmaking. In his address to the parliament, President Mintimer Shaymiyev called this situation an absence of extreme points of view in parliament and a coordinated operation of the executive and legislative branches of power. Many are inclined to think, however, that the election of a new State Council marked an end to the parliamentary opposition in the republic, which had to move from the conference hall to city squares.

Tatar Edict on Stimulating Entrepreneur Growth

954F1933B Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 1

[Edict of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan: "On Stimulation of the Development of Enterprise in the Republic of Tatarstan"]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the support of enterprise and the creation of additional jobs I resolve:

1. To exempt in the first two years of operation newly formed small businesses (including these formed prior to this edict taking effect) of the sphere of material production, transport, and communications from the payment of the part of profits tax payable to the treasury of the Republic of Tatarstan, provided that the proceeds from the realization of products of proprietary production exceed 70 percent of the sum total of earnings from the products (jobs, services) that they realize. Small businesses of the sphere of material production, transport, and communications shall in the third and fourth years of operation pay profits tax in the amount of 25 and 50 percent respectively of the rate of profits tax payable to the treasury of the Republic of Tatarstan, provided that the proceeds from the realization of products of proprietary production exceed 90 percent of the sum total of proceeds from their realization of products (jobs, services).

The said privileges shall not extend to small businesses formed on the basis of liquidated (reorganized) enterprises or their branches and structural subdivisions or to small businesses in which the share of state or municipal ownership and the ownership of public associations in the authorized capital constitutes more than 25 percent.

If a small business of the sphere of material production, transport, or communications terminates the activity in connection with which it was accorded the tax privilege specified by this edict prior to completion of the five-year term (as of the day of official registration), the amount of the profits tax is to be paid to the treasury of the Republic of Tatarstan in full for the whole period of its activity.

2. That banks allocating not less than 50 percent of the sum total of credit to small businesses involved in priority areas of activity defined by current legislation of the Republic of Tatarstan shall pay profits tax in the part payable to the treasury of the Republic of Tatarstan at a rate reduced by a factor of 1.5.

3. That the republic Interdepartmental Commission for Social Protection of the Population, the State Committee of the Republic of Tatarstan for the Administration of State Property, and off-budget funds whose resources pertain to state financial resources shall make provision in 1995 for the allocation to the Tatar Republic Fund for Financial Support for Small Business resources in an amount of not less than 50 billion rubles [R], R25 billion of which, from the Republic of Tatarstan Privatization Fund.

4. That the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan shall:

make changes to the Charter of the Tatar Republic Fund for Financial Support for Small Business providing for the use of the fund's resources chiefly on the basis of the competitive financing of investment projects and its transfer to the jurisdiction of the Trade and Industry Chamber of the Republic of Tatarstan;

adopt the corresponding decisions to the extent of its actual authority:

on the exemption of the Tatar Republic Fund for Financial Support for Small Business from taxes in respect to those payable to the treasury of the Republic of Tatarstan;

on regulation of the licensing of the types of activity of small businesses with a view to a simplification of the current procedure of the issue of licenses and a reduction in the types of activity for which licenses are required;

adopt other decisions providing for execution of this edict.

5. That the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan and the Tatar Territorial Administration for Antitrust Policy and the Support of New Economic Structures shall with the participation of the Trade and Industry Chamber of the Republic of Tatarstan provide for information support for the activity of small business entities.

6. To recommend that the local organs of state power and administration of the Republic of Tatarstan and local government authorities exempt small businesses of the sphere of material production, transport, and communications and the Tatar Republic Fund for Financial Support of Small Business from the payment of local taxes and special fees and charges.

7. That the State Tax Inspectorate for the Republic of Tatarstan, as agreed with the Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Tatarstan, devise a procedure of the application of this edict.

8. That this edict shall take effect on the day of publication.

[Signed] M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan.

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Tatar Edict on Insurance for Enterprises

954F1933A Kazan IZVESTIYA TATARSTANA in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 1

[Edict of the president of the Republic of Tatarstan: "On Measures To Ensure the Insurance Protection of Enterprises and Organizations of the Republic of Tatarstan and Their Employees"]

[FBIS Translated Text] To ensure the dependable insurance protection of enterprises and organizations of the Republic of Tatarstan and to increase the social protection of their employees I resolve:

1. To authorize enterprises and organizations of the Republic of Tatarstan, regardless of their organizational and legal form, to form as of 1 January 1995 insurance reserves in an amount of up to 1 percent of the realized product (commodities, jobs, services) with their incorporation in the prime costs of the manufactured product (commodities, jobs, services).

2. That the insurance reserves shall be used to cover expenditure on the prevention and elimination of the consequences of accidents, fires, and other emergencies and also to insure the property of the enterprises and organizations and the life of their employees.

3. That the insurance reserves formed in accordance with clause 1 of this edict may be used in the conclusion of insurance agreements only with insurance companies that are registered on the territory of the Republic of Tatarstan and are licensed to engage in insurance activity.

4. For control and coordination of the activity of the insurance companies and also for the formulation of recommendations and proposals for an improvement in insurance in the Republic of Tatarstan, to form a Republic Inspectorate for the Supervision of Insurance Activity.

5. That the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Tatarstan shall:

within a month's time devise and approve a Statute on the Republic Inspectorate for the Supervision of Insurance Activity;

prior to 1 July 1995 determine measures for the creation of favorable conditions for the development of an insurance market in the Republic of Tatarstan and a strengthening of its legal base, including the elaboration of a list of the necessary prescriptive-legal documents.

6. That this edict shall take effect the day it is signed.

[Signed] M. Shaymiyev, president of the Republic of Tatarstan
The Kremlin, Kazan
24 March 1995.

Tatar Vice President Elected Parliament Speaker

LD3003191895 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1725 GMT 30 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nikolay Sorokin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kazan March 30 TASS—Vasiliy Likhachev, the vice-president of the Russian Republic of Tatarstan, was elected chairman of the new republican parliament at its first session on Thursday [30 March].

Likhachev, 43, is an ethnic Russian married to a Tatar woman. He is doctor of law.

Likhachev occupied the post of the republican vice-president since June 1991. Now he will evidently have to leave the post.

The new parliament of Tatarstan, called the State Assembly, was elected in early March.

Tambov Oblast Administration Head Appointed

LD2403161495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1020 GMT 24 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 24 March—ITAR-TASS has learned at the presidential press service that Russian President Boris Yeltsin issued a decree today appointing Oleg Ivanovich Betin as head of administration of Tambov oblast, on recommendation of the chairman of the Russian Federation Government. Earlier Oleg Betin used to hold the post of the first deputy head of administration of Tambov oblast.

Communists Win Elections in Kamchatka

LD2803085295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0805 GMT 28 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Borovkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy March 28 TASS—Run-off elections to the legislative assembly of the Kamchatka region, which were held for two days—March 26 and 27—because of bad weather, have brought victory to communists. According to the results published here today, all the eight deputies to the legislative assembly, elected in two constituencies of the administrative centre of the region, are supporters of the "Tovarishch" (Comrade) public and political movement, in which communists are playing the key role.

Now, after the vacancies are filled, the Kamchatka legislative assembly may start working.

Ballot Rigging in Khakasia Leads To New Elections

MK2803110095 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 28 Mar 95 p 3

[Report by Sergey Fedorchenko in the "Rigging" column: "Khakasia Faces New Elections. The Poll in the Republic Has Been Marked by Numerous Violations"]

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[FBIS Translated Text] The Bogradskiy Rayon Prosecutor's Office in the Khakasia Republic has opened a criminal case under Article 133 ("Forgery of election papers and the wrong calculation of votes"). Originally, Bogradskiy Rayon showed the highest turnout in elections for administration heads in Khakasia: 70 percent. And it was not until several weeks later that some curious details of the poll in the rayon began to surface, including numerous instances of ballot rigging. In the Pervomayskiy precinct alone, 100 forced signatures were discovered.

It is noteworthy that, based on election returns, a former deputy chief of the Bogradskiy Rayon Internal Affairs Directorate became administration head. Rayon prosecutors began to check on election results also in other districts of the republic. It should be noted that election returns in the republic capital itself—Abakan—have also been deemed null and void. The territorial election commission has found a whole mass of "dead souls," instances of untimely opening of ballot boxes, and even voting by minors. New elections in the republic have been set for 29 April.

Reportage, Commentary on Conflict in Chechnya

Avturkhanov, Shanibov on Chechen Crisis

954F1953A St Petersburg SMENA in Russian 29 Mar 95 p 3

[Interviews with Umar Avturkhanov, chairman of the Supreme Council of the Chechen Republic, and Musa Shanibov, president of the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus, by Vladlen Chertinov; place and date not given: "Why Chechnya?..."]

[FBIS Translated Text] *In the Chechen war people are "becoming unhinged." In order to preserve their state of mind against the inevitable consequences a great deal of praying needs to be done here. Or a great deal of drinking. And they need to ask themselves and others "Why?" as little as possible. A person at war has neither the time nor the strength to reflect on things. A person in civvy street is another matter. He has the fortunate opportunity of contemplation. Today we continue to acquaint readers with meditations on the Chechen theme and give the floor to two direct participants in the Caucasus events of recent years—people temporarily outside of the zone of combat operations.*

'There Will Be No Guerrilla War'

Former police officer Umar Avturkhanov is a member of the opposition with some length of service. Nadterechnyy Rayon, of which he is the head, ceased to submit to Dudayev long ago, since immediately following the latter's presidential election victory, virtually. It should be observed that Dudayev's propaganda itself did much to ensure that Nadterechnyy Rayon take its leave of Groznyy officialdom. The so-called plains Chechens live in Nadterechnyy Rayon. Dudayev, on the other hand, is a native of the mountains. A multitude of highland Chechens announced their presence together with him in Groznyy. Some of them brought with them a kind of arrogance in relation to the inhabitants of the Chechen plain. Claims to the effect that the plains Chechens did not fight against the Russian troops in the years of the Caucasus war and that it was the natives from Nadterechnyy Rayon who under Soviet power came in for the highest directive positions in Chechen-Ingushetia began to appear in the press. The loyalty and warlike nature even of the Nadterechnyy people were called in question. But the military expeditions undertaken by the Dudayevites against the plain from time to time produced no results, and Nadterechnyy Rayon became little by little the main base of all the forces in opposition to Dudayev. Despite the fact that his opponents accused Avturkhanov of the most varied sins, his popularity grew slowly, but surely. Until he appealed for all to hear to Moscow for military support. And it is utterly pointless speaking about any popularity now, after all that has happened, it would seem....

[Chertinov] Umar, if you knew how everything would turn out and were you able to go back six months in time, would you repeat your actions? Would you consent to a power exacerbation with the Dudayev regime last summer or would you behave somewhat differently?

[Avturkhanov] There are processes that are inevitable. Had it not been me, it would have been someone else. But I would like to say first of all that to blame most for what has happened are the Chechens themselves. After all, Dudayev came to power with the consent of very many of them. He deceived the people. And then, when people understood their mistake, he did not allow them to hold a referendum even. By the summer of last year we had employed all methods of struggle against the regime. Just one method—armed struggle—remained. Were I told to go the same route all over again, I would act the same way, only more boldly. I would try, though, to remove Dzhokhar Dudayev from power by my own powers. And then, had we not started an armed struggle, the Russian troops would have entered Chechnya far sooner.

[Chertinov] So you maintain that you attempted to put off the commitment of troops?

[Avturkhanov] Yes, this is what we wanted, this was why we got to Groznyy several times. Russia would never have left Chechnya as a sovereign state. I always said: "Unless we ourselves put our own house in order, others will put it in order for us." And how they are putting it in order, you can see.

[Chertinov] Nonetheless, the situation is now such that in the eyes of many Chechens the Provisional Council is a puppet authority. It was you who, following the unsuccessful offensive against Groznyy on 26 November, provided the formal pretext for the commitment of troops, and now you are cooperating with the new "occupation" authorities. That is, the situation is now

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working for Dudayev, although in the summer even, as far as I know, he was in very bad shape.

[Avturkhanov] We would be a puppet body had we been created by Moscow. But neither the Provisional Council nor the Government of National Revival were created by Moscow. The Provisional Council was formed on 18 December 1993. A congress was held on 4 July of last year in Znamenka, at which 2,056 delegates from all of Chechnya were present. This congress approved the Provisional Council as the highest organ of state power and confirmed a resolution, which contained a demand for the adoption of all measures for the overthrow of the Dzhokhar Dudayev regime, unless he had left of his own accord prior to August. It was in accordance with this resolution that we operated. The people's opinion has not changed in the least now either. I recently met with delegations from Shatoy, Itum-Kale, and Shalinskiy Rayon. We are working in earnest with Gudermesskiy and Achkhoymartanovskiy Rayons and have now established Provisional Council authority in Shelkovskiy Rayon. Yes, Dudayev succeeded recently in stirring people up. But how did he do this? He was helped by local television, which with jesuitical subtlety maintained that the Russians were conquering Chechnya and deporting, expelling, and raping the population. But when the people realized that there was no tyranny and no outrages and that no one was about to deport them and when a start was made on fixing up for people the life that is now being organized, the population of the rayons that I have just mentioned began to mount security and are not in practice admitting the combatants to their villages. And what are the latter, in turn, doing? They are making a stand at the village or somewhere in a densely populated area of a city and shelling the Russian troops from there, bringing down retaliatory fire on these villages and areas. People understand this full well. And when, therefore, I am asked whether there will be a guerrilla war, I say unequivocally: No.

[Chertinov] An opinion encountered frequently in Chechnya is that Dudayev himself is in principle an honest and sincere man, but is deluded as regards those around him, who are to blame for all the troubles.

[Avturkhanov] A deluded, honest man cannot have billions in accounts in foreign banks. Besides, each gang gets the leader it deserves.

[Chertinov] As regards the accounts, do you have reliable information?

[Avturkhanov] More than that.

[Chertinov] What is the situation in Groznyy now?

[Avturkhanov] What situation.... There is practically no city center now. Cleanup and sanitary treatment is under way, the garbage is being carted out. We are now restoring the vitally necessary utilities—water supply, power and gas supply, and sewerage. An administration of Groznyy has already been recruited and has embarked on work.

[Chertinov] It consists mainly of representatives of Nadterechnyy Rayon?

[Avturkhanov] No, the administration of the city, like the republic MVD also, is being formed from representatives of all of Chechnya. And, naturally, there is little that we could do without the assistance of Russia and neighboring republics—Ossetia, Kabarda, and Adygea—and Stavropol and Krasnodar Krays.

[Chertinov] Have many instances of looting been recorded in the republic?

[Avturkhanov] Nineteen sets of criminal proceedings have been instituted in cases of looting and violations of socialist legality, and a preliminary inquiry is being conducted in respect to many other incidents. So these instances are being given the proper attention on the part of the General Procuracy of Russia and on our part. Looters happen to have been executed on the spot also.

[Chertinov] Looters among the Russian servicemen included?

[Avturkhanov] Even Russian servicemen also. Although I am speaking about this now in the news media for the first time. But I have no wish to resemble Dudayev's television, which showed dismembered corpses and showed corpses of Russian soldiers hung up in the republic committee.

[Chertinov] But many people are speaking about the humanity of the other side. It is said that every day the Dudayevites feed the Russian servicemen meat and are doing them no harm.

[Avturkhanov] What are you talking about. I myself have seen the corpses of soldiers taken to the local military hospital. The physician summoned us specially and said: "Go and see what they are doing." And what are they doing with the peaceful inhabitants! A sniper was captured, and he testified that he had been ordered to kill everyone, one after the other.

[Chertinov] Chechens are killing Chechens?

[Avturkhanov] Of course.

[Chertinov] And the final question: Why have you removed the depiction of the wolf from the flag of the Chechen Republic?

[Avturkhanov] We removed it because there can be no depiction of people, animals even less, on a Muslim flag. By all the canons of Islam this is simply blasphemous.

'I Am Called a Traitor'

Dreadful things were expected of the Caucasus people. There were many ominous forecasts concerning the response of the Caucasus peoples to the events in Chechnya. But the forecasts have not been justified. As yet, in any event. No North Caucasus republic has declared solidarity with Dzhokhar Dudayev. And even the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus is behaving with

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great restraint on this occasion. We applied for the necessary explanations to Musa Shanibov, president of the confederation and chairman of the Kabardian People's Congress.

[Chertinov] Tell us, Musa, why the confederation responds so variously to approximately identical events? Everyone remembers your drastic actions which followed Georgian troops' incursion into Abkhazia. We are observing nothing similar now, when the Russian Army has entered Chechnya. Is this, perhaps, explained by the fact that Russia had at that time an interest in your sharp response, but that now this is not a part of its plans?

[Shanibov] There are many reasons here. But you have mentioned the main one. Without any doubt, the Abkhaz war and our participation in this war were needed by the Russian leadership for bringing Georgia back into the CIS. It was perfectly well aware that we had purchased and conveyed weapons, but it did not prevent us. Now the situation is entirely different. They have really closed all roads and borders of Southern Russia. The Abkhaz-Russian border may be crossed today, for example, only for a bribe of 50,000-100,000 rubles (and this is a tremendous amount of money for an Abkhaz). Unless you offer a bribe, your Abkhaz passport is torn up and thrown in the river.

Now as far as our position is concerned. When, last May, there were armed clashes in Groznyy between government forces and the Labazanov opposition, we realized that a big war had begun in Chechnya.

Then Avturkhanov and Gantemirov made their presence known. Khasbulatov came to Chechnya. Ruslan Khasbulatov is an outstanding son of the Chechen people, and he would, without any doubt, have overthrown the Dudayev regime entirely peacefully. But Khasbulatov is Yeltsin's enemy, and for this reason Moscow gambled on Avturkhanov, Gantemirov, and Labazanov. And, most important, sought to ensure that the opposition request weapons from Russia. I believe that this request was a crime against their own people and against the Caucasus. And even Khasbulatov, when he also to some extent came to agree that weapons could be used, began to arm himself and to provide himself with security—he descended to the Avturkhanov level. The situation was deadlocked. Chechens began to wipe out Chechens. We said that we could not support either side in this fratricidal war. I wrote Dudayev a letter, in which I suggested that he hold democratic elections and afford the Chechen people an opportunity to decide for themselves to whom to entrust supreme power. This was, in my view, the sole way of avoiding war. But this was hardly part of the plans of Dudayev himself. He had no chance of winning these elections because the republic's economy was on the verge of collapse. And he understood, evidently, that only war could enhance his prestige. And this person, one of the best Soviet generals, knows how to fight.

It was evident following 26 November that the commitment of troops to Chechnya was inevitable. But even then I publicly stated repeatedly that the confederation would not be a participant in a war against Russia. The confederation adopted the same position on 11 December at a congress in Nalchik. After this, some people started to call me a traitor and an enemy of the Caucasus, a volunteer movement branched off from us. It formed its own structures and ceased to notify us of its actions. That is, something akin to a split occurred, and I should, therefore, explain my position in more detail.

At the Third Congress of the Peoples of the Caucasus in 1991 we read out a recorded letter of Abdurakhman Avtorkhanov, a professor at Munich University and a leading modern political scientist. He told us plainly: "Peoples of the Caucasus, unite. Take the political legal path. You will resolve your problems together. And God save you from a war with Russia."

I opposed drastic actions since I did not want the Confederation to become the cause of an escalation of the war in the Caucasus. I opposed them because it was just such an escalation that was expected of us. It was expected by the world forces which would like to clean out the Caucasus and bring down Russia.

[Chertinov] Excuse me, to what do you refer?

[Shanibov] I refer to the celebrated UN report to the effect that in the first quarter of the 21st century the world's population will have reached 8 billion, and the remaining resources of the planet will be sufficient for supporting the normal life of only 1 billion. This "golden billion" will include. it has to be assumed, merely the population of the civilized states which are at this time dictating their conditions to the world. The wars of the future will be wars not for oil but for clean land and clean air and fresh water. The Caucasus is quite fortunate in the ecological respect and is among the top places in the world in terms of supplies of fresh water. The Caucasus war unfolding before our eyes is designed, in the intention of its organizers, to accomplish two tasks: the freeing of living space in the Caucasus and a blow struck at the integrity and stability of Russia. The blow at Russia is being struck in order to take control of its vast market and raw material resources.

Even before the start of Gorbachev's perestroyka, such well-known Western political scientists as Kissinger and Brzezinski were openly declaring that the end of the Soviet Union was inevitable and that it would fall apart beneath the blows of interethnic clashes, the epicenter of which would be the Caucasus. Simultaneously articles appeared in the Western press which maintained inter alia, for some reason or other, that the Caucasus was sparsely populated. These were very odd statements because we know that by Russian standards the Caucasus is demographically a very overburdened region. We began to wonder what the point of all this could be. With the accession to power of Gorbachev, much became clear. When Karabakh began, we realized that a war of annihilation was being fought. And the negative image of "persons of Caucasus nationality," who are

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virtually all born criminals, that was imposed on society in parallel was perceived as being nothing more than psychological preparation of the population for this war. We understood that, advantage being taken of the conceit, arrogance, and excitability of the Caucasus peoples and the psychological and territorial syndromes of the past, we would be set against one another. It was to prevent these processes that we formed the Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus. We began to work for unification, and we were for this reason declared enemies of Russia. Rather, this was done by the latter's enemies through the mouth of Russia itself.

If you recall the chronology of the Caucasus conflicts, you will see how the "Karabakh syndrome" has been consistently transferred from one Caucasus republic to another. First Karabakh coupled Armenia and Azerbaijan. Then Georgia was aroused, and war was transferred via the Ossetian corridor and Abkhazia to the North Caucasus. The intention was for the Ossetia-Ingush clashes to have grown into a big war between Chechnya and North Ossetia. Weapons were left behind in Chechnya and weapons were brought into Ossetia for this purpose (General Issa Kostoyev declared before me at a congress of the Ingush people in the presence of Polyanichko that he had seen with his own eyes a directive on the shipment of arms to North Ossetia that had been signed by Gaydar, and the Ossetian general Bibo Dzutsiyev subsequently took me around these storehouses). Attempts were made to do the same in Kabardino- Balkaria also. General Beppayev, deputy commander of the Transcaucasus Military District and now leader of the Balkar people, armed the Balkars. Weapons were contemplated for the Kabardians also. In 1992 we began to get reports that there were weapons in Nalchik and Prokhladnyy, and it transpired that there was either no security there at all or that we could purchase the weapons with bribes. That is, the conditions were being created for us. And I fell to thinking that, since we were being given these weapons, people wanted them to be fired. And for this reason I wrote a letter to the Supreme Council and Council of Ministers of our republic demanding the removal of the weapons from Kabardino-Balkaria. And they were, indeed, removed. I frequently asked myself whether I did the right thing at that time. For subsequently, when the war in Abkhazia began, we were sorely in need of arms. But now, when we have seen how, thanks to military supplies, the civil war in Chechnya began and took off and have seen to what this has led, I realize that I was, after all, right at that time, in 1992.

[Chertinov] How has the relationship between Dudayev and the Confederation taken shape?

[Shanibov] It has not. He did not so much help us as put obstacles in our way. I learned that Dudayev took it badly that not he but Shanibov became president of the KNK [Confederation of Peoples of the Caucasus].

[Chertinov] Why, in your view, did the war in Chechnya assume such a destructive nature?

[Shanibov] There are many reasons for this. The main one, in my opinion, is the desire to destroy as much as possible, expand this war to the maximum, and involve in it as many people as possible. The ruling regime in Russia would like the devastation to be truly horrifying. In order that on the eve of radical administrative-territorial reform (the decision on which, as far as we know, has already been adopted by the Cabinet of Ministers) all components of the Federation be too frightened to protest this reform. The transition to a land system is planned. All the North Caucasus republics, for example, are to be abolished and a North Caucasus land with its capital in Rostov-na-Donu formed. It is anticipated that the problems of federalism in Russia will in this way be resolved. We, however, are convinced that the desire to convert the Russian Federation into a unitary state is nothing more than the next step toward the collapse of Russia. Russia emerged and developed as a multinational state. This was its strength. The violation of the basic principle on which Russia was built will be the death of it.

Georgia's attempt to abolish just two national-state formations has led to Georgia now going about with its hand out. Russia is not Georgia, of course, but there are far more national-state formations on its territory also.

The second reason for the scale and destructive nature of this war is that major material interests are engaged in it. All that was lost in the Western Group of Forces, all that has been stolen and appropriated by the ruling regime within Russia—all will be written off and thrown into this war as into a black hole. And the more the destruction, the more that can be written off.

The third reason is the struggle for Chechen, and not only Chechen, oil.

The fourth reason is that the ruling regime is bankrupt. It has suffered a fiasco in all directions of state activity: in the economy, the development of democracy, and international relations. The entire people knows this. And at the next elections the people will clear out the regime. But inasmuch as immense resources have already been appropriated, and availing itself of the fruit will take time, 20-30 years, it is essential that the regime exclude all encroachments on power. A huge war which makes it possible to introduce a state of emergency throughout the country is needed.

And only at the very end of this list would I put the ineptitude and treachery of the military command. I, for example, know of an instance of the sale of military weapons. Weapons, accompanied by two tanks, were delivered for dollars to the Dudayevites, who then shot up these tanks and killed the young tank crewmen. I learned this from a man who took part in the entire operation personally.

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Chechen State Property Management Organ Formed

MM2903141495 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 29 Mar 95 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "Russian Goskomimushchestvo Announces"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Decree No. 1411 of the Russian Federation Government of 20 December 1994 "On the Territorial Administration of Federal Organs of Executive Power in the Chechen Republic" and the decrees of the Chechen Republic Government of National Revival, a Chechen Republic State Committee for the Management of State Property has been formed. By order of the Russian Goskomimushchestvo [State Committee for the Management of State Property] the committee is vested with the rights and authority of a territorial agency of the Russian Federation Goskomimushchestvo. Z.K. Choltayev has been appointed chairman of the committee.

The Russian Goskomimushchestvo has provided the Chechen Republic Goskomimushchestvo with methodological and practical assistance and opened up sufficient targeted funding to enable the work of privatizing state and municipal property to be carried out effectively in the republic.

War Opponents Protest Detention of Women

LD2903202995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1922 GMT 29 Mar 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ruslan Maysigov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Nazran, the Republic of Ingushetia March 29 TASS—Mothers of Russian soldiers serving in Chechnya, Buddhists, and human-rightists gathered at one of Nazran's central squares on Wednesday [29 March] to protest a recent detention of three women-participants in their joint action, the march of mothers' compassion. They said the mass meeting would continue until Milena Kreigman, Shakhaba Khuliyeva and Tamara Magomedmirzoyeva were set free.

Several march participants were detained by federal troops when approaching chechen borders. All of them, except three women, were released by Wednesday. The march of mothers' compassion was initiated by the committee of mothers of Russian soldiers, the human-right society Memorial, the peace-maker group Omega, and Buddhists. According to its organizers, the march aims to "halt the Chechen war".

Participants in the action left Moscow on March 8 to travel through the Volga region, Rostov-on-Don, the Stavropol territory, and Ingushetia to Chechen capital Groznyy.

Procedure Approved for Rebuilding Economy

LD3103210295 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1601 GMT 31 Mar 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature; compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A conference chaired by First Deputy Prime Minister Oleg Soskovets has approved Friday a temporary procedure of financing urgent steps to rebuild the economy and social sphere in Chechnya, Yuriy Mikhailov, Soskovets's press secretary told Interfax.

He said that this decision will enable the rebuilding work to be continuously financed. Certain federal agencies involved in this work have complained of delays in the funding.

Authorized banks Yugorsky, Agroprombank, Investkredit, Tveruniversalbank, Menatep and Promradtekhbank as well as federal agencies will finance the rebuilding work in Chechnya.

Soskovets assured commercial banks that the funds invested by some of them in the rebuilding of the Chechen economy will be repaid by the state.

Further on Kulikov Press Conference

MM0304130795 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Lieutenant Colonel Nikolay Starodymov: "The Troops Are Not Using Force Unnecessarily, Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov, Commander of the Joint Group of Federal Troops in Chechnya Stated"]

[FBIS Translated Text] "The so-called 'Dudayev army' has been routed." Colonel General Anatoliy Kulikov opened his meeting with journalists with those words. Dudayev's men do not have sufficient arms, equipment, or trained reserves left to go on with the combat operations. Over 80 percent of the republic's territory is under the control of the federal forces, the commander noted. The success of recent days was due primarily to the increased combat experience and efficient cooperation between units and subunits of all the power departments.

At the same time, Gen. Kulikov stressed, the troops have occasionally even had to be held back so as to find time for negotiations with elders and field commanders. This practice, Anatoliy Sergeyevich said, will continue in the future too. For example, a number of forces in Shalinskiy Rayon have already refused to maintain any relations with Dudayev's gunmen. "People appreciate the fact that we do not use force except in extreme necessity," Gen. Kulikov stressed.

Then the commander of the Joint Group of Federal Forces answered journalists' questions.

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[Journalist] What can you tell us about the combat experience gained during the actions in Chechnya?

[Kulikov] The experience of combat actions in Chechnya is truly unique. And it undoubtedly needs the most thorough study and generalization. We have already drafted appropriate recommendations for staffs, academies, and university departments. This is important because, in military specialists' opinion, there could be localized armed conflicts in particular in the near future too. Furthermore, here in Chechnya we have managed to achieve cohesion in the actions of all the power ministries—the Defense Ministry, the Ministry of Internal Affairs, the Federal Counterintelligence Service, and others. This fact, I would note, has confirmed the correctness of the existing principle of training all officers in the same academies and colleges. The specifics of the internal troops and the characteristics of counterintelligence and other activity may be assimilated in special departments. But there must be a common basis.

[Journalist] It is clear that combat actions in Chechnya are drawing to a close. What will happen next?

[Kulikov] I believe that by summer events in Chechnya will develop into a lingering conflict. That is why permanent garrisons and temporary subunits will remain here. Of course there will be problems with deployment because there are no resources in the country to fund the troops or their facilities. Furthermore, after the discharge of those servicemen whose period of service has ended subunits' staffing levels will be only 35-50 percent. Various public movements, including the "Mothers' Peace March," are also doing the country a disservice. This march has virtually turned into some kind of show. It is receiving material sponsorship from the most unexpected structures. For example, the government of Ingushetia and the president of Kalmykia's staff. Yet these republics are funded to a considerable extent by the Russian taxpayer....

There was even a Hare Krishna group which appeared here recently. We put them on a plane and sent them to Moscow, and we will be presenting this sect with a bill for 65 million rubles.

[Journalist] What is your assessment of our army's hardware and arms?

[Kulikov] We have excellent armored equipment. But there is no money to buy new vehicles to replenish the pool. There are problems with control systems, especially at the lower level, and with reconnaissance and night-vision instruments. They need to be more compact and reliable. As for armored hardware losses, they are due primarily to Dudayev's plentiful supply of antitank systems. Just recently we confiscated 500 grenade launchers and 12,154 antitank grenades from the gunmen.

Rubles Allocated for Housing Repair

LD0104170595 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0707 GMT 1 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Velichko]

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow, 1 Apr—The federal government plans to allocate 2.5 trillion rubles for repairing residential buildings in the Chechen Republic, first of all in Groznyy. It is planned to allocate 450 billion in 1995 for the construction of at least 600,000 sq.m. of housing.

An ITAR-TASS correspondent was told at the government office that the federal program attaches primary attention to the construction of private housing by owners themselves by providing the necessary materials for them.

Shirshov: Combat May End Soon

LD0304161795 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Petr Shirshov, chairman of the Federation Council Committee for Security and Defense, believes that combat actions in Chechnya may end in the next two days. At the same time, he does not exclude that isolated bandit formations will start using tactics of guerilla warfare.

'Deputy Leader' Sees 'Partisan War' If Talks Fail

AU0304170295 Paris AFP in English 1631 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By Jean Raffaelli]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Serzhen-Yurt, Russia, April 3 (AFP)—Russian and Chechen military leaders geared up for fresh peace talks later this week, as thick fog ushered a lull in fighting in the breakaway Russian republic.

Usman Imayev, considered deputy leader of Chechen separatist forces loyal to President Dzhokhar Dudayev, told AFP they placed "great hopes" in the upcoming talks between their representative Aslan Maskhadov and Russian Anatoliy Kulikov.

Meanwhile the deputy commander in Vedeno, the village in the Caucasus where the Chechens set up their headquarters after the fall of Shali, said 43 Russian tanks had been destroyed near Gudermes in the past few days.

"Four soldiers per tank, count the number of dead for yourself," added Nesir Asalayev.

However various fronts in south and southeast Chechnya have been quiet since Sunday morning, only a few automatic weapon rounds being heard around Shali, 30 kilometres (20 miles) southeast of Groznyy.

Speaking in Vedeno, 60 kilometers (40 miles) southeast of Groznyy, Imayev said talks would take place "at a border," although the exact location remains unknown.

Previous cease-fires between Russian and Chechen forces broke down during talks in neighbouring Ingushetia.

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He added: "There will be a long war for (strategic) positions until the end of April, after that the Russians wil be faced with diversionary attacks and a guerrilla war."

He said if talks did not succeed, "it will be the start of a long partisan war. The Russians won't have any peace here, we will launch attacks everywhere and chase the (pro-Moscow Chechen) traitors out of the 'liberated' towns."

Imayev conceded that Shali, the former Chechen stronghold, had fallen at the end of last week.

"Shali has been abandoned by the (Chechen) military," he told AFP, "but there are some volunteers left there."

However he denied Gudermes, Chechnya's second largest town 50 kilometres (30 miles) east of Groznyy, had been captured by the Russians. "They have completely surrounded the town but still have not entered it," Imayev said.

A school was one of many buildings gutted in Serzhern-Yurt, five kilometres southeast of Groznyy, by heavy artillery and air attacks last week.

The village, where attacks killed several refugees, is now deserted. Farm animals, abandoned by their owners who fled to the mountains, stray along the streets.

Chechen fighters claim a number of old men, including war veteran Vakhid Gurzhekhanov, were shot by Russians in Shali on Friday after being forced out of a cellar, while two separatists had their throats cut.

The Russian Army now controls roughly two-thirds of Chechnya after marching into the republic in December to end a separatist takeover.

Refugees Leaving Chechnya for Dagestan

LD0304210095 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1900 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] About 30,000 people have already fled from the area of hostilities near the Chechen town of Gudermes and Shali. According to the the office of the UN commissioner for refugees, for the past few days nearly 3,000 have been crossing the border with Dagestan every day. UN representatives have appealed to the countries of the world to send tents for refugees to the region immediately. Local authorities have suggested setting up additional refugee camps.

Economic Recovery Plan Outlined

MK0404112495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Vladislav Borodulin: "Economic Revival of Chechnya. Banking War—Third Stage of Chechen Campaign"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This total cost of rebuilding Chechnya—5.3 trillion rubles [R]—long cited by government officials, may be regarded as officially approved as of the start of this week [3 April]. The federal special program for the rebuilding of the republic approved this past Saturday [1 April] should be passed by the government "any day now." Nearly one billion dollars is to be spent this year alone, whereas Deputy Economy Minister Andrey Shapovolyants was more than cautious regarding the outlays for the years to follow—"everything will depend on what can be accomplished this year." However, already this year, the authorities will have to resolve a problem of a criminal-economic nature—to see to it that Russian commercial banks take part in restarting oil extraction in Groznyy. The republic's government of national accord is vigorously objecting to this.

The federal program worth nearly $1 billion to be in effect until the end of the year proposes "urgent measures of social aid to the population, the rebuilding of vital facilities and of the fundamental sectors and the production infrastructure." As regards the rebuilding of the social sphere, the federal authorities are rather consistently upholding the earlier announced principle that "money should fall from the sky the way bombs did"—the greater part of R5.3 trillion is slated precisely for these purposes. Plans, in particular, call for the rebuilding of the housing stock, primarily privately owned, which will be mainly done by its owners. R450 billion is supposed to be spent for these purposes; 210 billion of this is to be turned over to private owners of housing.

The rebuilding of the republic's industry is a somewhat harder problem. The military operations have created the prerequisites for the federal government to carry out a daring structural experiment—it is absolutely unnecessary to rebuild Chechnya, under conditions of intensive migration and a sweeping economic crisis, exactly as it was before the war. In principle, an attempt at such a structural approach has been made in the program—in particular, the revival of Chechen machine-building is not contemplated at all. All these plans, however, do not affect the reconstruction of the fuel and energy complex. The total cost of restoring oil extraction and refining is expected to amount to R539 billion (this is a rough figure because the program's authors think the volume of restoration work can be assessed more precisely after the "normalization of the situation and a detailed on-the-spot study.")

The first stage calls for the restoration of the idle oil wells and for the reconstruction of Groznyy's refineries to the point where they can refine 2.5 to 3 million tonnes of oil. It is in this sector that broad participation is expected by Russian banks which have agreed to make available for these purposes an interest-free loan of R180 billion. It is necessary to point out the mismatch between the announced amount of credits and the sum of credits to be released for specific projects. For example, an annex

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to the program provides for credits of 90 billion toward the rebuilding of oil extraction, of 9 billion toward the restoration of oil transportation systems, 70 billion toward the rebuilding of oil refining facilities, 58 billion toward supplying petroleum products, and 26 billion toward the rebuilding of gas- and fuel-supply systems. Government staffers were not able to explain the reason for this R73 billion to your KOMMERSANT-DAILY correspondent.

However, judging by the latest sitting of the State Commission on the Rebuilding of Chechnya, this is not going to be the main problem for the federal authorities and Moscow's banks in reviving "large-scale Groznyy oil production." Under the federal program, the banks are to grant a credit against government guarantees. The credit will be repaid out of the funds earned from Chechen oil exports. In the future (but still during this year), it has been proposed to exempt the republic's oil exports (or an equivalent amount of oil exported from the other regions of the country) from all types of duties and taxes which, in the Economy Ministry's assessments, will bring in R360 billion rubles in 1995. This money should be deposited in a special account in the "Imperial" bank.

However, as the state commission chairman Oleg Soskovets has stated, the government of Salambek Khadzhiyev is already vigorously opposed to such a plan for Moscow banks' participation in the rebuilding of the oil industry. According to Soskovets, the government insists that this work should be performed with the exclusive use of Chechen capital whereas federal monies be concentrated on the solution of social problems. [Report is accompanied by boxed text listing five Moscow banks ("Agroprombank," "Moscow International Credit Bank," "Investcredit," "Menatep," and "Imperial") and sums they are prepared to contribute].

Government Offsite To View Recovery

MM0404113295 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 4 Apr 95 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report under the rubric "Chechnya: Events, Facts, Commentaries": "They Will Discuss the Program"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The program to restore the Chechen Republic's economy will be examined at an offsite State Commission session in Groznyy 7 April. Oleg Soskovets, first vice premier of the Russian Federation, heads of leading federal ministries, and members of the Chechen Government of National Revival will take part in the session.

On the submission of Andrey Shapovalyanets, Russian first deputy economy minister, the program covers only 1995 and envisages the allocation of 5.0003 trillion rubles [R].

The document approved by the federal government highlights two main groups of tasks: priority aid to the population and food supplies for the people.

The housing problem in the Chechen Republic is identified as a priority. It is proposed that 600,000 square meters of housing be commissioned by the end of 1995. It is planned to allocate R300 billion for pensions and R120 billion for allowances within the social support package.

The program also envisages the restoration and financing of the fuel-energy and agro-industrial complexes.

Deal With Dudayev To Surrender Shali, Gudermes

MK0404092495 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Article by Dmitriy Kamyshev and Ilya Bulavinov: "Situation in Chechnya. War Is Over. War Ahead"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite what many people thought, many statements by Russian leaders about the Chechnya campaign are finally being confirmed. Albeit with some delay: Having promised to take Groznyy in two hours Grachev did it in a month and a half; it only became possible to act on Yeltsin's order to stop the bombing of the Chechen capital after the Dudayevites had withdrawn; the president's January statement on the end of the military stage of the operation began to ring true only recently. However, the utterances of statesmen to the effect that a guerrilla war is impossible nonetheless raise doubts, if only because, after the fall of Shali and Gudermes, there can be no other kind of war in Chechnya.

The taking, one day apart, of Dudayev's supporters' last strongpoints—the towns of Shali and Gudermes—marked the federal troops' biggest success in the last two months. The military have attributed the relative ease and bloodless nature of the victories to the skill of their men and officers and the depletion of the Dudayev forces' strength. However, near-zero losses in storming well-fortified points (the military spoke in detail about the building of the fortifications) are only possible if the defending force leaves its positions well before the storming begins.

Naturally, this does not mean that any disarmament can be considered: Having retreated in good order to new positions, the Dudayevites are always ready for new battles. But then this no-contact war is very much to Moscow's advantage. On one hand, the easy taking of Dudayev's "impregnable" bulwarks may signal that military actions in Chechnya are really at an end, and the presence of Western leaders in Moscow on 9 May will not be clouded by reports of military operations (something that used to worry them so). On the other hand, in the wake of Shali's fall, the main forces of Dudayev's supporters can retreat only to mountainous areas; it will be possible to attempt to cut these areas off from the rest of Chechnya, which is "peaceful."

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But to date, the unexpectedly easy successes by the federal troops raise more questions than answers. The most unpleasant one is: Was the surrender of the towns by the Dudayevites perhaps the result of a deal? This interpretation is also supported by the fact that the troops did virtually nothing to hinder the fighters' retreat. After all, encirclement operations (the generals did report that the towns, which were subsequently taken, had been blockaded) are predicated on the enemy's either being defeated or surrendering. But suddenly, Pavel Grachev himself promises "not to be too active" if the fighters behave quietly.

Nonetheless, the continuation of active military operations in Chechnya is inevitable. Even a month-long (until Victory Day) demonstration of "peaceful life" may cost dearly: Unless Dudayev's bases in the mountainous areas are destroyed soon, the Chechens will only regain their strength rather than reconcile themselves to vegetating in the mountains. (Unless Dudayev was indeed promised the republic's mountainous southeast.) In this event, psychological superiority will be on their side—it is always nicer to carry out nocturnal raids than to constantly expect a shot in the back. This much is undoubtedly realized in Moscow. Thus the most likely scenario for the development of the situation in the Chechen theater of military operations would seem to be the beginning of the gradual destruction (primarily from the air) of Dudayev's main forces that have retreated into the mountains.

Refugees Report Russians Capture Strategic Village

AU0404081795 Paris AFP in English 0729 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Khaji-Yurt, Russia, April 4 (AFP)—Russian troops have seized a strategic village located near the eastern Chechen town of Gudermes and cut off access to one of the main roads leading south, a local refugee said Tuesday [4 April].

Saida Tassayeva said Russian troops on Monday shelled the village of Oyskhara, located 10 kilometers (six miles) east of Gudermes, forcing residents to flee the town. She said there were victims but gave no further details.

Chechen separatist forces meanwhile said they had retreated to a hill overlooking Oyskhara and were just south of Russian positions in the area.

According to other reports, Russian artillery on Monday also pounded another road leading to villages located in the breakaway republic's mountainous region, which represents the rebels' last refuge.

The Russian assault on the tiny oil-rich republic began December 11 in a bid to crush a secessionist rebellion.

Militant Resistance to Federal Troops Decreasing

LD0404091195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0857 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Aleksandr Kharchenko]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mozdok, North Ossetia, April 4 TASS—Chechen militants are no longer rendering fierce resistance to the Russian troops, TASS was told Tuesday by the press centre of the military command in Chechnya.

Separate illegal armed units are now concentrated in the west of Chechnya in the area of Achkhoi-Martan, a district centre 30 kilometers from Groznyy.

The press centre asserts that peaceful population and elders in a number of Chechen villages, striving to avoid bloodshed, are expelling militants from their localities.

Federal troops command and commanders of units of the Groznyy militia held a meeting in Mozdok Monday to discuss their interaction. Servicemen of federal troops and local militia patrol the outskirts of the city of Shali, situated 25 kilometers south-east of the Chechen capital. Militants have recently been driven out of Shali.

Another consignment of humanitarian aid for the population of Groznyy arrived in the past day in ten Kamaz trucks. Specialists continue dealing with the problem of water supply for the city. Five more water wells began to operate in Groznyy on April 3.

Local railway traffic on Khankala-Groznyy-Aldy-Yermolovskaya route resumed last Monday, the press service of the Russian Government reported on April 3. The Groznyy railway station, the locomotive and coach depots reopened, said Sultan Alduyev, chief of the Groznyy department of the North-Caucasian railway. Traffic to Argun will soon be opened. Intercity bus routes from Groznyy to Urus-Martan, Znamenskoye, Naurskaya are operating.

The programme for the restoration of the economy of the Chechen Republic will be discussed at a visiting meeting of the state commission on Friday, April 7, in Groznyy. Russian First Deputy Premier Oleg Soskovets, chiefs of key federal ministries and members of national revival government of Chechnya will participate.

Refugees Continue To Pour Into Dagestan

LD0404095595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0912 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 4 TASS—Some 2,000 people arrive in Dagestan from the neighbouring Chechen Republic every day. This is said in a report of the United Nations mission in Russia relayed to ITAR-TASS on Tuesday [4 April].

According to the data of UN representatives, refugees mostly arrive from the districts of Gudermes and Shali. These districts were under constant fierce fire, UN representatives said.

According to the information of the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR),

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the number of officially registered refugees in Dagestan is now 75,544. In addition, some 30 thousand have no wish to get registered.

The United Nations takes measures to give relief to refugees, the report said. For instance, a convoy of six trucks with humanitarian aid arrived in Makhachakala from Vladikavkaz on April 1.

UN Reports Refugee Influx, Camps Overflowing

AU0404111895 Paris AFP in English 0956 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 4 (AFP)—The flow of refugees fleeing fighting in Chechnya continues to grow, especially toward the neighboring republic of Dagestan where the influx has reach saturation point, the United Nations said here Tuesday [4 April] in a communique.

It said more than 2,000 people, mainly women, children and the elderly, are crossing daily into Dagestan from the small breakaway republic where Russian troops are trying to crush a secessionist revolt.

The refugees are mainly from the Shali and Gudermes regions, the last secessionist strongholds bombarded by Russian forces.

The communique said the system set up to welcome the refugees into host families in Dagestan and in public building was saturated.

It added that the situation in the breakaway republic was very unstable and fighting was continuing and had even spilled over into Dagestan on two occasions.

Last Saturday, fighting between Russian troops and Chechen rebels spilled over into the Dagestan village of Tukhchar, located along the border. The fighting left five civilians and several Russian soldiers dead.

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International Affairs

Defense Minister Holds Talks in China

LD0304191895 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Ukrainian Government delegation is continuing its visit to the People's Republic of China. The head of the delegation, Valeriy Shmarov, deputy prime miniser and defense minister, met Chinese National Defense Minister Chi Haotian on 3 April in a ceremony on the square in front of the Chinese People's Liberation Army Museum. The Ukrainian minister attended the second joint meeting of the Ukrainian-Chinese intergovernmental commission for trade and economic affairs.

He Guangyuan, Chinese minister of machine-building industry, met a group of Ukrainian entrepreneurs accompanying the government officials. In the afternoon, Shmarov met Li Lanqing vice premier of the Chinese State Council. Later in the evening, the delegation attended a reception at the Ukrainian embassy.

Cooperation Protocol Signed

LD0404082195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0757 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beijing April 4 TASS—Ukrainian Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Valeriy Shmarov, who is holding Ukrainian-Chinese talks in Beijing, took a two-day time-out. He finished today the first half of his visis by signing a protocol on a regular session of the joint intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation.

After returning to Beijing from the Shenzhen special economic zone, where the Ukrainian delegation flew on the same day, Shmarov will hold talks with his Chinese counterpart Colonel General Chi Haotian and will have a meeting with "one of the Chinese leaders," a spokesman for the Ukrainian Embassy told ITAR-TASS.

According to reliable sources, the main result of the first part of the visit was an agreement between Kiev and Beijing on so-called "major compensation deals." Their purpose is to balance two-way trade turnover by increasing the deliveries of Ukrainian metal and metal products to China, including those manufactured by its enterprises of the defence industry.

Last year China became one of the major trade partners of Ukraine. It was surpassed only by Russia, the U.S. and several more countries. Trade turnover between the two countries went up by 300 million dollars to reach 925 million. Because of a shortage of hard currency Kiev had to sell more than to buy. Ukrainian export stood at 849.5 million dollars, and import—at 75.5 million.

Observers believe that the second, "military" part of Shmarov's visit is no less important for Ukraine, than the first one, especially in view of the fact that Russian defence minister Pavel Grachev has already visited China, and that Chinese specialists are frequent visitors of shipyards in the city of Nikolayev, which specialised in Soviet times on the building of naval vessels.

Parliament Chairman Views Visit to ROK

LD0304191995 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1500 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 April, Oleksandr Moroz, the chairman of the Ukrainian Supreme Council held a news conference in Kiev for Ukrainian and foreign journalists. It was dedicated to the results of a visit by a our state's parliamentary delegation to the Republic of Korea and also other pressing internal and foreign problems. According to Moroz, the aim of the visit by a group of Ukrainian deputies and entrepreneurs was to establish interparliamentary contacts, study Korea's experience in creating a market economy, and build a democratic society, as well as search for practical ways for Ukraine to enter the Asian and Pacific region. Within the framework of the visit and in addition to the official talks the group also fully familiarized itself with the activities of leading Korean corporations with the aim of possibly investing capital in the Ukrainian economy. It was stressed at the news conference that from this point of view the visit was considered to be useful. A concrete result was the signing of a number of documents, the opening of a Korean-Ukrainian center, and agreements on further contacts. The chairman of the Supreme Council stressed that the dialogue initiated between Ukraine and Korea should be now implemented.

Protocol For Cultural Centers Signed With Israel

LD0304192995 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1841 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev, April 3 (INTERFAX - UKRAINE)—A Ukrainian-Israeli intergovernmental protocol on the setting up and activities of information and cultural center of the two countries was signed in Kiev Monday [3 April].

Officials in the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry press center told Interfax - Ukraine that the document was signed as a follow up on the January 1993 inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in culture and education.

Ukrainian Peacekeepers Said To Remain in FRY

LD0304185695 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1715 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali is preparing a plan of UN peacekeeping operations on the basis of Security Council resolutions, which will define specific need for peacekeeping units, according to Volodymyr

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Khandohiy, head of the international organizations department at the Ukrainian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, Khandohiy said, there are no signs that the Ukrainian peacekeeping battalion will be withdrawn from former Yugoslavia. He said there may be partial cuts to the number of Ukrainian peacekeepers who may also be redeployed within former Yugoslavia.

National Affairs

Parliament Passes Vote of No-Confidence in Government

LD0404131695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1218 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] KIEV, April 4 (Interfax)—The Ukrainian parliament passed a resolution of no confidence in the Vitaliy Masol government in a 292-15 vote with 15 abstentions and 37 not voting Tuesday.

Parliament instructed the government to continue in office until a new cabinet is formed.

The no-confidence vote comes after parliament heard the government report and regarded its performance as unsatisfactory.

Also Tuesday parliament accepted the resignation of Prime Minister Vitaliy Masol in a 224-62 vote with 15 abstentions.

Masol has been on vacation in recent days. He tended his resignation about a month ago. His resignation was immediately accepted by President Leonid Kuchma.

Oleg Dyomin, who addressed parliament on behalf of its presidium, said that the government had failed to implement presidential decrees as well as parliamentary resolutions.

He accused the government of failing to draft the appropriate bills and national programs, in particular, a concept for economy restructuring.

Dyomin added that the government lacked any concepts for running the economy, state control or for fulfilling its duties.

Rukh Calls for No Confidence in Moroz, Tkachenko

LD0304183495 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1330 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—The People's Movement of Ukraine [Rukh] has called on all Kievites, parties, and civic organizations to come to the Supreme Council at 0900 on 5 April in order to publicly express no confidence in Oleksandr Moroz [Supreme Council chairman] and Oleksandr Tkachenko [deputy chairman], Rukhpress told UNIAN on 3 April.

In the opinion of Vyacheslav Chornovil, reads the press release, Moroz and Tkachenko are using their official positions to financially support businessmen who are adherents of communism and socialism, and by attempting to avoid responsibility are putting open pressure on the prosecutor general's office by not giving it an opportunity to conduct an objective investigation.

In the words of Chornovil, "only the resignation of the presidium as well as of Moroz and Tkachenko could save the Supreme Council from early elections."

Moroz To Sue Rukh for Inciting Public Discontent

LD0304180595 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1457 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kiev April 3 TASS—Ukrainian parliament Chairman Oleksandr Moroz said he intends to file a law suit against the nationalist Rukh movement for inciting public discontent with his policy.

Speaking at a news conference in Kiev on Monday [3 April], Moroz said that his decision had been prompted by the fact that Rukh had been distributing leaflets in Kiev urging people to gather in front of the parliament building on Wednesday and demand his resignation.

In addition, the leaflets said that the speaker "is a criminal with respect to his own people and is involved in the plundering of the state."

Moroz said that Rukh is the only political force in Ukraine with which he would not like to have a dialogue. In his view, "Rukh members are incapable of accepting an opposite ideology." "They can only destroy everything. By accusing me of plundering they accused the entire parliament," he said.

Moroz: No Reason To Dispute Kuchma Crimea Decree

LD0304145095 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1357 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Viktor Demidenko and Mikhail Melnik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 TASS—"There is no reason for the Ukrainian Parliament to dispute the president's edict on direct subordination of the Crimean Government since Leonid Kuchma acts within the framework of Ukraine's legislation", Ukrainian Parliament Chairman Aleksandr Moroz told a press conference here today.

Along with this, the speaker said "legal collisions between official Kiev and Simferopol will exist until a new constitution of the autonomous republic of Crimea appears".

"The parliament created a single legal space in the country with its decisions of March 17. But within this

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field a 'subfield' arose, which, on the one hand, does not contradict Ukrainian laws, but on the other permits the Crimean Parliament to make destabilising decisions," Aleksandr Moroz said.

The Ukrainian parliament speaker stressed in particular that "if any structure violates Ukrainian laws, the parliament will take all measures to keep it within the single legal field. This concerns both the Crimean Parliament and its chairman".

Aleksandr Moroz stressed that Sergey Tsekov's pronouncements alleging that "Russia has not yet said its final word are no more than his personal opinion". Moroz added that "official Moscow has states unequivocally that the Crimean issue is Ukraine's internal affair".

Aleksandr Moroz also said that the elections to local councils in the Crimea would be held on June 25. Ukrainian legislation has been supplemented with an addition concerning quotas for deported peoples. But this addition concerns only the Crimean population, where Crimean Tatars deported to Siberia and Kazakhstan by Stalin and returned to their native Crimean Peninsula recently, make up a sizable portion of the inhabitants.

Crimean Parliament Presidium Meets in Simferopol

LD0304115195 Moscow INTERFAX in English 0952 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] SIMFEROPOL, April 3 (Interfax)—The Crimean parliament's Presidium opened a session in Simferopol Monday morning [3 April]. Presumably, as reports indicate, the agenda of an emergency session is being discussed. The possibility of convening parliament on April 3 was voiced by speaker Sergey Tsekov Saturday.

He revealed that the session would adopt a document, urging Ukraine's parliament "to suspend the Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's decree on subordinating the Crimean cabinet to Kiev again and on reinstating in office Crimean Premier Anatoliy Franchuk, earlier sacked by deputies of the autonomy."

As Tsekov declared, the decree, made public on April 1, reduces Crimea to the position of a colony.

As the Presidium has reported to Interfax, the Crimea TV and Radio Company's leadership has refused to broadcast the forthcoming session as Kiev has recommended that "in line with point 5 of Kuchma's decree, it is necessary to cover events in Crimea without bias whereas deputies can have a biased view on what is happening."

Meanwhile, several hundred people have been picketing outside the government building in Simferopol with slogans "Down with Franchuk Government," "Crimea's President Meshkov rather than Kuchma".

Police reinforcements have been brought in to the building.

Crimean Council: Kuchma Establishing Presidential Rule

LD0304160395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1030 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—The Ukrainian president's edict on 31 March 1995 and also the decision of the Ukrainian Supreme Council of 17 March 1995 are directed at further restricting the rights and authorities of the Republic of Crimea, reads a statement from the Crimean Supreme Council's press center.

The statement notes that the presidential edict is "directed primarily against Ukrainian legislation and also creates a dangerous precedent for removing the executive power bodies from under the control of the legislative power."

"In fact, by his edict, the Ukrainian president is establishing direct presidential rule in Crimea, is depriving the people of its elected body—the Supreme Council of Crimea and the right to form and control the bodies of state executive power in Crimea," reads the document.

Supreme Council Examines Drobotov Resignation Request

LD0304164395 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1445 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Simferopol—On 3 April, the Supreme Council of Crimea examined a statement from Crimean Minister of Agriculture Anatoliy Drobotov requesting to resign. Drobotov said that following the Ukrainian president's decree of 31 March, he cannot remain in a government "which retains officials despite a vote of no confidence in them by the Crimean parliament" and requested that parliament accept his resignation in his absence.

Deputies approved a resolution releasing Drobotov from the post of Crimea's minister of agriculture. The Crimean parliament's chairman, Serhiy Tsekov, said Drobotov would be granted leave "until the political issues are settled."

Crimean Poll on Constitution, Presidency

954F1988A Simferopol KRYMSKIYE IZVESTIYA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

[Review by N. Kiseleva, sociological laboratory of the Crimean Center for Humanities Studies: "If I Cannot Eat It, At Least I Will Take a Bite"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Once again for the umpteenth time Ukrainian Supreme Council deputies (with the exception of the communist faction, which voted against it) have accused Crimea of violation of the Helsinki agreement on the inviolability of borders (which was in

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reality ruthlessly trampled in the Belovezha preserve), noncompliance with the old Ukrainian SSR constitution (modified by Rukh to fit "independence"), and many other mortal (for "autonomy") sins. Along the way, the "accusers" adopted a number of decisions, whose correctness and benefit for peninsula inhabitants was explained by many in the mass media: from the speaker of the Ukrainian parliament to a local professor of law, who only recently prided himself on having participated in the creation of the now-abolished Crimean constitution. Many of these advocates cited Crimean residents' allegedly unanimous support of the Kiev decisions that repeal things peninsula residents only recently voted for.

The KTsGI [Crimean Center for Humanities Studies] staff conducted on 22-24 March a survey among capital city residents which could arm with figures both sides in the confrontation. It came out in the course of the sociological study that supporters of the liquidation of the Crimean constitution comprise 26 percent of the Simferopol population (see chart 1), and 37 percent support abolishing the office of the president (see chart 2). The ranks of opponents of the Ukrainian deputy corps' decisions were much greater: 52 and 45 percent, respectively. Approximately one-fifth of the 868 citizens polled either could not define their attitude to the events or showed indifference.

It is hard to blame the citizens of the not-yet-abolished autonomy for not agreeing with the Ukrainian Supreme Council's decrees. Let us not, however, follow the example of Ukrainian Speaker A. Moroz and criticize Ukrainian lawmakers, who, as a rule, react to decisions of the Crimean authorities and expressions of the will of our republic's citizens with a half-year (or more) time lag. Crimeans behave consistently, sticking to whatever choice they make. Ukrainian parliament members behave as they traditionally do, probably guided by the folk saying: "Hindsight is always 20/20."

Chart 1. How do you feel about the 17 March Ukrainian Supreme Council decision abolishing the Crimean constitution?
positive—26 percent
negative—52 percent
neutral—22 percent

Chart 2. How do you feel about the Ukrainian Supreme Council decision abolishing the office of the president of the Republic of Crimea?
rather positive—9 percent
positive—28 percent
rather negative—19 percent
negative—32 percent
no opinion—18 percent.

Commentary on Kuchma Crimea Moves, Perry Visit

WS0304101595 Kiev INTELNEWS in English 2237 GMT 2 Apr 95

[Commentary by Viktor Zamiatin: "Political Week: Kuchma Plays 'Crimea Card'"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The week ended not with a whimper but a political bang on Saturday [1 April] when President Leonid Kuchma published a decree subordinating the actions of the Crimean government to his control and—at the same time—lined up additional aid and moral support from the United States through the visit of Defense Secretary William Perry.

The most important development—for Ukrainian internal politics, at least—was the issuance of Kuchma's Crimea decree. The essence of the decree is that control over the Crimean government has been taken away from the Autonomous Republic's Parliament and placed under the Cabinet of Ministers in Kiev. Although this measure is supposed to be only temporary, it will remain in force for at least several months, until Crimea adopts a new constitution to Kiev's liking. The decree significantly mentions the Crimea Government as it existed on March 17 (the day that the Ukrainian Parliament abolished the Constitution and the presidency in Crimea), thereby recognizing as legitimate the government headed by Prime Minister Anatoliy Franchuk and Deputy Prime Minister Andriy Senchenko—despite the fact that it was forced to resign on March 22 by the Crimean Parliament.

The family ties between Kuchma and Franchuk are hardly worth mentioning, since Kuchma did not advise Franchuk, to whom he is related by marriage, to fight for his position.

Following a vote of no-confidence in Franchuk and Senchenko, the Crimea Parliament appointed Anatoliy Drobotov as the new prime minister. Kiev, however, has refused all contact with him and Drobotov was not invited to the Cabinet session March 30. He is not recognized as a head of government by anyone in Kiev and the power of Crimea's Parliament is being whittled down day after day.

Crimean Parliament Speaker Sergei Tsekov can hardly state that Kuchma's "April Fool's Day joke" was any surprise to him. He had been acquainted with the draft decree during his urgent visit to Kiev on Thursday. The Kuchma move was itself the logical outcome of his failure several days earlier to convince the leftist majority in Parliament to grant him the same power through legislation.

On Saturday, there was no reaction from Simferopol. Even earlier, Crimean mayors and a majority of enterprise directors on the peninsula had supported the decision of Kuchma and the government. Of course, the Crimean Parliament, where the once disintegrated and now reconstituted Rossiya bloc holds a majority, will speak out sharply against Kiev's decision, but it can hardly change anything. The mayors' position has allowed Kuchma to tell Tsekov: "You are alone."

Most probably, next week, a decision to carry out a referendum on Crimean independence will be adopted. But Kiev, naturally, will not give money to carry it out,

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Moscow will be careful of doing that, and Crimea's own businessmen will support anything capable of assuring stability on the peninsula. Under the current circumstances, Crimean authorities, and primarily the Parliament, can not provide it. Kiev, being supported by the Crimean government and heads of local executive power, potentially can. The rich Russian owners of property on the peninsula will most probably support the Kuchma decision too.

Therefore, one can come to the conclusion: Crimea is gradually becoming a test ground for "breaking in" the ideas expressed by Kuchma in his Power Bill. Perhaps, that is why Yevhen Marchuk, Ukraine's acting Prime Minister, named Crimea "a sick but beloved child of Ukraine."

The creation of Kuchma's rigid vertical line of executive power is therefore largely dependent on the behavior of this test sample. Within several days, the Crimean Parliament will have to chose one of two hard alternatives: to accept completely the rules of the game dictated by Kiev or to be dissolved. As a fully independent body of power, it has already been exhausted, and even the Russian Duma in the person of Konstantin Zatulin can not help. Kiev has won a victory. This can only inspire Kiev during further negotiations with Russia, while further events in Crimea can only diminish in importance as time goes by.

Whether by chance or not, at the same time Kuchma put his final dot in Crimea's case history, there was a representative delegation of American military men and businessmen headed by Defense Secretary William Perry and Overseas Private Investment Corporation [OPIC] President Ruth Harkin.

Of course, the situation in Crimea was discussed during the negotiations of Perry with Kuchma and Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko, but for informational purposes only. The visit was dedicated to absolutely different problems.

First, Ukraine asked the United States to boost funds allocated under the Nunn-Lugar Program. The offer was met with understanding and support from Perry.

Second, the "landing operation" of the businessmen and the head of OPIC was not accidental. They were interested in the chance to establish themselves in the relatively new business of making money by "beating swords into plowshares." Such examples already exist, though they are rare: A joint venture [JV] seen by the Americans was established by a Ukrainian plant, Fregat, and the American Bill Gerbert Co. which constructs housing for retired servicemen. JV Alliant Kiev is engaged in the conversion of conventional arms and ammunition (during the visit, OPIC additionally allocated $16 million to this joint venture for equipment and supplies).

More is expected—a meeting of Ukrainian industrialists with their American colleagues and the leaders of the Nuclear Arms Center of the U.S. Defense Department is going to be held soon. Its aim is preparation for the tender for a contract on destruction of SS-19 missile launching facilities, exactly the ones that were seen by the American guests April 1 in Pervomaysk.

While we're talking about money, the promise by the Americans to allocate an additional $20 million will not accelerate the nuclear disarmament of Ukraine. This is rather a symbolic gesture of American authorities regarding Ukraine. As symbolic are the words of Defense Minister Valeriy Shmarov: "Ukraine need not be in a hurry with its disarmament for which the START treaty gives seven years." But it does hurry up for one simple reason—it has no money of its own with which to provide for the lives of its retiring servicemen (as well as non-retiring ones).

It is symbolic and noteworthy, that, in a reverse of recent practice, Perry visited Kiev first and then Moscow (however United States President Clinton's route will be reversed). Apart from other things, the United States is really interested in Ukraine and, therefore, Perry praised Ukraine for its activity within the Partnership for Peace program—and this says much to an observer of the relationships of the United States with both Ukraine and Russia.

Everything cannot be fine, even within one week. If OPIC and other American organizations decided to support Ukraine at least a little bit, relations with one of the main "sponsors" of Ukraine, the International Monetary Fund, are not doing as well. A session of the IMF Board of Directors should have been held March 31. It was expected (and with high likelihood) that a positive decision on the allocation to Ukraine of a $1.5 billion standby credit would have been adopted.

However, the session was not held. It was postponed for two reasons. First, Parliament has not passed budget for the current year. Second, it instead adopted a so-called Act on Remuneration of Labor which brings to naught all the governmental efforts to insert into the draft budget the maximum acceptable level of GNP deficit (7.3 percent).

Ukraine nonetheless succeeded in playing its "Crimea card" to its maximum advantage with a decision being very difficult to pick on even by its own Parliament. This was the main achievement of the week. Disarmament in exchange for American money is successfully continuing. But the most interesting events in Ukrainian political life—adoption of the Power Bill and the uproar sure to follow Russian President Boris Yeltsin's visit to Kiev (whenever that happens)—still lie ahead.

Black Sea Fleet Begins Eight Days of Maneuvers

LD0404090495 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0803 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lev Ryabchikov]

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[FBIS Translated Text] Sevastopol, 4 Apr—Integrated tactical maneuvers began in the Black Sea Fleet today, with some 30 ships of different classes, marines, and aircraft taking part. Fleet Commander Eduard Baltin is directing the maneuvers.

A spokesman at the fleet's press center told the ITAR-TASS correspondent that, in spite of the grave economic plight, the complex political situation, and difficulties with manning, the fleet is continuing to resolve the tasks confronting it in the interests of Russia, Ukraine, and the other CIS countries, and is constantly enhancing its combat readiness.

During the eight days of maneuvers, amphibious landing operations and missile artillery fire will be carried out. Other combat tasks to work out interaction between heterogeneous forces and means at sea and on land are also expected to be tackled.

Scientist Sees 'Apocalyptic' Prospects for Chernobyl

AU0304134195 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Natalya Okolitenko: "Let Us Synchronize the Moon With Applause"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Now for something serious. Volodymyr Savchenko, writer, physicist by profession, and creator of several invention patents, having compared more than 1,000 pieces of data from reference books published in different years in different countries and by different authors, has concluded that the "impulsive character" of the rates of decay shown by 90 radionuclides cannot be accounted for by measurement inaccuracies alone. He has submitted two claims to the discovery of two new physical phenomena to the USSR State Committee for Inventions and Discoveries: "The Phenomenon of Variable Rates of Radioactive Decay" and "The Phenomenon of Acceleration of Radioactive Decay." Luckily, his article entitled "An Essay on the Usefulness of Studying Reference Books (Dedicated to the Chernobyl Accident)" was published in a Moscow weekly KNIZHNOYE OBOZRENIYE [Book Review] and on 10 October 1988 was carried by VECHIRNIY KYYIV. Savchenko has received a good share of insults from scientific and science fiction publications (he had questioned the holy of holies: calculations on the reliability of nuclear power stations), but official recognition of the discovery—now in independent Ukraine—has become, as they say, suspended in the air. It still hangs there.

At the same time, there emerged under the auspices of the National Academy of Sciences, the "Suveren" [Sovereign] corporation. From where, using another person's discovery of the irregular rates of radioactive decay and without making any reference to the author, adventurers from science launched their activity along the "beaten track".... Unfortunately, this is not all.

It appears that, even without an "active biomass," an accelerated plutonium decay is under way in the Chernobyl zone. Professor V. Kopeykin, doctor of geological and mineralogic sciences and head of department at the All-Russian Institute of Geology and Nonmetallic Minerals, was one of the first to note the phenomenon. Prior to that, publications on the topic appeared in the foreign press, in particular, in the Austrian newspaper VORARLBERGER NACHRICHTEN. There is nothing to be happy about: The products of plutonium decay are extremely dangerous. Americium-242 has a low critical mass and may explode even when in small quantities: Is this the reason why the "sarcophagus" is cracking and falling apart? Even more malignant is its "little brother," Americium-241 with a half-life of 7,950 years. It is very mutagenic and toxic, is readily soluble in water, migrates, and gets into the food chain. In this connection, the apocalyptic prophecy about a "wormwood" star causing a third of all water resources to turn bitter and killing many people is becoming quite imminent....

Are the leading structures of Ukraine's National Academy of Sciences ready to deal with such a turn of events? Or, having given over the forefront of scientific research to corporations such as "Suveren," do they believe that they have thereby fulfilled their duty to society?

Chernobyl Director Says 'Complex Will Complete Its Life'

MS0304140095 London THE OBSERVER in English 2 Apr 95 p 11

[Report by Polly Ghazi: "Chernobyl to Stay Open For 15 Years"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Director of the Chernobyl nuclear plant in Ukraine intends to keep it open for another 15 years—despite Western experts' warnings that a second catastrophe could be imminent.

On Friday, Sergey Parashin rejected the conclusions of Western scientists and engineers, reported in last week's Observer, that pillars supporting the damaged reactor could collapse at any time. He invited world leaders to inspect the plant's safety.

But an interview given to a delegation from the environmental group Greenpeace on 13 March raises questions about the judgment of the man who directs operations at the nuclear complex—where two reactors are still operating and the stricken reactor four is encased in a crumbling sarcophagus.

In the hour-long taped interview, which has been made available to The Observer, Mr Parashin dismisses documented evidence that radiation has affected tens of thousands of people. Ten days ago, doctors reported that thyroid cancer cases among children had shot up in Ukraine, Belarus and Russia as part of the deadly legacy of the 1986 explosion.

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Mr Parashin disagrees. "Our children are healthier here compared with other regions because living conditions are better," he says. He suggests: "Those who still work at the station... don't suffer illnesses and they don't die. Those who left to live in the town (because of fears for their health), they are susceptible to be ill."

He claims that testing nuclear weapons produced few effects on health because people didn't know about the tests. The worldwide publicity that followed the Chernobyl explosion had produced massive local panic, which in turn made people ill.

"People were convinced that the most horrible thing had happened. I know people who received 400-rems dosage (enough to kill half the people exposed within weeks) and they still work here. I know people who died of one-rem doses, and this is called the hospital effect. When a healthy person is passing through medical rooms, all with physicians, at the end he leaves the hospital and he is ill."

He says optimists "cannot be frightened and live under any conditions." But pessimists make up 80 per cent of people "and you can bring them to heart attacks by talks."

Mr Parashin acknowledged an exodus of "highly qualified personnel," but says the complex should complete its planned operating life—it is not due to be taken out of commission until 2010—because it provides jobs and electricity.

Industrialised nations have repeatedly pressed for the plant's closure on safety grounds. But Ukraine claims it cannot afford to do so without massive aid.

This weekend Greenpeace sent a transcript of Mr Parashin's remarks to Energy Minister Tim Eggar, urging him to increase diplomatic pressure for the plant's closure.

"Given Mr Parashin's absurd and disturbing comments and the increasingly precarious safety situation at Chernobyl, it is imperative that action is taken immediately," said Sarah Burton of Greenpeace.

Minister: Chernobyl Closing Costs Could Vary

AU0304151995 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 31 Mar 95 p 1

[Interview with Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's minister of environmental protection and nuclear safety, by Olena Hubina; date, place not given: "What Does It Cost To Close Down the Chernobyl Atomic Plant?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **A few days ago, Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma stated that a political decision on closing down the Chernobyl AES [atomic power plant] is possible. Shortly before that, I spoke to Yuriy Kostenko, Ukraine's minister of environmental protection and nuclear safety, who had been a member of our state delegation to Japan. We also touched upon the problem of closing down the Chernobyl AES.**

[Hubina] Does Japan insist on closing down the Chernobyl AES?

[Kostenko] Japan is primarily interested in problems of nuclear disarmament in general. With regard to the Chernobyl AES, Japan, like other Western countries, demands that we do this, but not so insistently as Europe. This is very easy to explain. The Chernobyl catastrophe stopped European nuclear programs. The Japanese nuclear program develops almost without obstacles. The Japanese are creating their own closed cycle. This is because Japan is an island state, and nuclear power engineering is the only thing it may count upon.

As regards European countries, they have their own problems associated with alternative sources of energy. Proceeding precisely from the economic situation of the power-engineering companies, enormous pressure is being put on Ukraine to force it to close down the Chernobyl AES. In the minds of common citizens, the Chernobyl accident is associated with the Chernobyl reactor. Nobody, for example, associates the RBMK [Soviet light water cooled, graphite moderated reactor] with Russia. Since everybody knows that the Chernobyl catastrophe happened in Ukraine, this psychological aspect leads to a great pressure upon Ukraine.

[Hubina] What assistance can the West provide for closing down the Chernobyl AES? What total sum is needed for that?

[Kostenko] As for the sum, it cannot be determined, because the method for calculations is extremely complex. What is implied when we talk of closing down the plant? If it is stoppage of reactors—this is one sum. If it comes to resolving the problem of the sarcophagus (incidentally, Ukraine cannot guarantee nuclear and radiation safety unless the problem of the fourth—destroyed—power unit is resolved), this is an entirely different sum. Ecological rehabilitation of the contaminated territories needs an additional sum of money. The total sum may range from billions to hundreds of billions of U.S. dollars. Proceeding from this, it is impossible to say how much money is needed to resolve the problems of the Chernobyl AES.

However, there are generally known things that require sums of money necessary for putting power units out of operation. One Chernobyl power unit requires $1 billion. Formally speaking, for closing down three units, we need $3 billion. However, in that case, we do not resolve the problem of the sarcophagus.

That is why our ministry's position lies in offering a form of cooperation that would also be worthwhile for the West. This may be in the form of a so-called international center for eliminating catastrophes. For the right to conduct research in that zone of the Chernobyl

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AES—it presents interest for it—such a center would make contributions to our state budget. We might also use those contributions to resolve social problems of Chernobyl employees and problems of building a new sarcophagus. In such a context, we might count upon appreciable assistance from the West. However, as things stand at present, when they say, well, we are allocating you $200 million or will allocate $500 million, a one-time aid will lead to nothing.

Two Men Arrested With Uranium, Radium, Palladium

MM0404084995 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by correspondent Olga Musafirova: "Fresh Uranium Has Appeared in Kiev Stores"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—This story could literally explode. An ordinary apartment in a nine-story block on Demiyevskaya Street turned out to be a nuclear raw material depot. Pelletized uranium-235 (the nucleus) and uranium-238 (the casing), radium, and palladium weighing a total of 6 kg were kept there in half-liter jars with plastic lids like some home-preserved cucumbers. In specific temperature and moisture conditions the granules become a source of powerful radioactive alpha-, beta-, and gamma-radiation. Nor is the start of a spontaneous chain reaction—an automatic nuclear explosion—ruled out.

The apartment landlady who rented the room to two men aged about 40 could hardly suppose that they would behave so scandalously! The tenants were obviously novices in the nuclear business. Otherwise they would hardly have kept any kind of lead box in their own bedroom to store radioactive pellets. And they would not have carried them through the street in parcels wrapped up in polyethylene. But the uranium men had an army past (as a lieutenant colonel and an warrant officer). It is true that the Kiev City internal affairs administration found it hard to tell me ("a secret of the investigation!") in exactly which army these two Ukrainian citizens, who had already admitted that they brought the strategic raw material from Russia, had served.

The story of their arrest is also curious. Some anonymous caller telephoned the militia and spent a long time asking the duty officer whether the presumed killers of Vlad Listyev could be found in Kiev. And then he stated that he had his eye on two men from the neighboring bloc—they were very suspicious!

The agents went to the spot and set up observation. The "subjects" were indeed behaving like scouts behind enemy lines—they were masked and gave each other secret signs. And when they were arrested (the Ukrainian militia has the right, according to a presidential edict, to make preventive arrests of those suspected of committing crimes for a period of up to 30 days) they immediately admitted that they were carrying uranium and had more at home....

The present case in Kiev is the second since the start of the year featuring an attempt to trade in nuclear commodities. Incidentally, the price of a kilogram of uranium on the world market is quite high—$250,000—and we can expect further emergencies....

I shall note that according to the information of the city internal affairs administration not a single enterprise in Ukraine's nuclear industry has yet announced that it has sold 6 kg of uranium, radium, and palladium. Although it is obvious that control over the storage and use of this raw material has been blatantly eased. One recalls the recent story involving the sale of fuel elements from the Chernobyl nuclear electric power station. They found neither the culprits nor the elements themselves—perhaps more successful people were dealing in them.

Weapons Seized From Russian Police Smugglers

AU0304134695 Kiev URYADOVYY KURYER in Ukrainian 30 Mar 95 p 7

[Report by the Press Service of Ukraine's Border Troops: "The Echo of Chechnya on Our Borders"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The results of the operation "Smuggler," which is being carried out by our border guards in cooperation with Ukraine's Ministry of Internal Affairs, Security Service, and Customs Services, as well as by Russian border guards, are impressive not only in terms of the amounts of consumer goods that smugglers are trying to take out of the country on a daily basis. Border guards, blocking bypass routes with the help of additional units, are thwarting the cleverest smugglers.

Two interesting facts deserve attention. A few days ago, a whole arsenal of weapons was found and confiscated during an inspection of the luggage of a citizen of the Russian Federation who works for the police: two "Mukha" [Fly] grenade launchers, 14 5.45-millimeter cartridges, 12 signal flares, two bulletproof vests, two helmets, and two truncheons. The next day, at the same stretch of the border, yet another Russian Interior Ministry official was detained with a similar "gentleman's outfit": 26 illumination flares, two helmets, one bulletproof vest, and three 12.5-millimeter armor-piercing and incendiary cartridges.

Antidrug Department Chief Views Achievements

WS0404103495 Kiev KIYEVSKIYE NOVOSTI in Russian 24 Mar 95 p 7

[Interview with Anatoliy Udod, chief of the Ministry of Internal Affairs' Department for Fighting Illegal Drug Trafficking, by Tamara Hrebenyuk; place and date not given: "Death on the Tip of a Needle"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Hrebenyuk] Times when it was believed that negative phenomena such as prostitution or drug abuse did not exist in a socialist society, ended with the collapse of the Soviet Union. How about

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the current situation? How long has your department been operating? What functions does it perform?

[Udod] Our department has been operating since 1986 and its major function is to reveal crimes connected with illegal drug trafficking. We have enough work.

Some 47,500 people in Ukraine have a record of abusing drugs and using various kinds of psychotropic substances. Of course, this figure is far from accurate, given that there exists a latent, concealed drug addiction. The actual figure probably approaches 400,000.

Unfortunately, sociological research into that problem was conducted as far back as 1987. We requested that the Academy of Sciences conduc. it again, but once work began, it was suspended for lack of funds. Many [organizations] offer such services now, but they demand that we pay in dollars. You understand that the Interior Ministry cannot afford such "luxury" in a situation when we do not have enough money to maintain the ministry's services.

Practice shows that a person abusing narcotics for 30 years or more gets up to 200 people involved in the using and selling of drugs. This procedure is accompanied by the existence of dens, given that young people prefer to use drugs in groups. It is easy to enter through that door, but it is very hard to get out. That is why the number of drug addicts is not diminishing. [passage omitted]

[Hrebenyuk] Could you cite specific results of your work?

[Udod] In accordance with operational data, 5,422 cases of illegal drug trafficking were detected within the [first] two months of 1995, as compared to 3,300 cases during the same period in 1994. More than six tonnes of narcotics were confiscated. This is an alarming trend, given that in the past, we used to confiscate around 16 tonnes annually.

Poppy straw remains the major raw material for the production of drugs in Ukraine. There are cases when local authorities issue permission for the large-scale growing of poppy. This occurred in Pereyaslav-Kmelnytskyy rayon for instance, despite the fact that it is an unstable area in terms of illegal drug trafficking. The situation also remains tense in Kiev, Chernihiv, and Lvov Oblasts.

Certain administrators request the issuance of permits for the growing of poppy and its subsequent use in the production of painkillers, justifying their actions by medicine shortages. We cannot allow that. Drug traffickers have learned how to produce such drugs from poppy which are as hard as foreign-made narcotics. The demand for those drugs is so high that the traffickers do not have to worry about quality. In 1994 alone, 731 people died from drug overdoses.

A lot of specialists are currently being dismissed as a result of reductions in the chemical industry. There is a danger that drug lords can offer them large sums of money and use them in their filthy business. That is why we cannot rule out that synthetic narcotics may appear on the market. Right now, poppy straw remains the major raw material, although hashish, cocaine, opium, and prescription medicine were often confiscated in 1994.

[Hrebenyuk] You have said that the demand for drugs is high on the Ukrainian market. I think that international drug lords, too, have displayed an interest in this market.

[Udod] Yes, our state is of special interest to the international drug Mafia. A courier from Latin America was recently detained [at Kiev's Boryspil Airport] for attempting to smuggle 6.5 kg of cocaine. A gram of cocaine costs $20 in Colombia and $80 in Ukraine. Of course, cocaine belongs to the so-called "elite" group of drugs. In Ukraine, as well as Russia, it is being distributed in night clubs, bars, and casinos in which dollars are paid for admission.

[Hrebenyuk] A package of laws has recently been passed aimed at fighting drug trafficking. What rights and duties of law enforcement bodies do those laws stipulate?

[Udod] Ukraine is the only CIS state which has a comprehensive legal base for fighting drug trafficking. Other states only have separate enforceable acts.

It is now important to work out a mechanism for the enforcement of those laws.

For instance, we have the right to make operational purchases. What does that mean? Suppose you are a drug dealer. A police officer has the right to buy drugs from you and then, after writing up a report, to bring you up on charges of drug trafficking. In the past, we could not even dream about that, despite the fact this is common practice abroad. It is relevant that we do not need witnesses for those kinds of operations. Of course, those operations are prepared in advance and demand a special authorization so that nobody can suspect the police of provocations against unwanted individuals.

Briefly speaking, we now have articles in the law that take into account the international experience of fighting the drug Mafia. [passage omitted]

Economic Issues

Cabinet Discussing Reconstruction of Economy

LD0304121595 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 0830 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Kiev—A sitting of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers began today, chaired by Acting Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk. UNIAN was informed of this at the press service of Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers.

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A draft program for the structural reconstruction of Ukraine's economy, a draft national energy program until 2010, and a number of other issues are being examined.

Coal Ministry Official Details Reorganization

WS3103131995 Lugansk GOLOS DONBASSA in Russian 17 Mar 95

[Interview with A. Poshtuk, deputy minister for production at the Ukrainian Ministry of Coal Mining, by Vsevolod Russov; place and date not given: "The Ukrainian Ministry of Coal Mining Is Recently Being Restored to New Quality"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A sign reading "The Ukrainian Ministry of Coal Mining" has recently appeared at the main entrance to the columned building on Donetsk's central square. From now on, this building will house the "Donetsk office" of the coal industry's headquarters, while its head office will be based in Kiev. Our correspondent Vsevolod Russov has interviewed A. Poshtuk, deputy minister for production at the Ukrainian Ministry of Coal Mining. [passage omitted]

[Russov] **How have the "powers" been distributed between Donetsk and Kiev?**

[Poshtuk] The minister, his four deputies, and several administrations reside in Kiev. In Donetsk, there are two deputies (Vitaliy Sydorenko, deputy minister for machine-building and power engineering, and myself), as well as heads of other administrations and services. Of course, this division should not be viewed as a sign that the ranking managers and the minister with his deputies intend to stay holed up in their Kiev or Donetsk offices. Vitaliy Poltavets has already visited many amalgamations, while the rest of the ministry's ranking officials, too, seek to get insight into what is going on in the field and directly participate in resolving problems.

The Chief Production Administration, the Personnel Administration, the Administration for Coal Enrichment, the Inspectorate for Facilities Under Construction, several administrations and services overseeing capital construction, and others bodies were established in Donetsk. A total of 278 employees will work in the Ministry of Coal Mining, while 120-130 workers will be employed in Donetsk. [passage omitted]

[Russov] **In spite of troubles, coal production has increased over the short period of your ministry's operation...**

[Poshtuk] Yes, by an average of 60,000 tonnes daily. I would not attribute this growth entirely to the measures undertaken by the ministry. To a great extent, this happened thanks to the season (in winter, coal miners usually display higher productivity), changes in labor compensation regulations introduced by the government, and simply the improved organization of work at mines and administrations. However, the impact of the measures undertaken by the ministry can already be seen.

At our initiative, all the mines submitted their program of work that must be done to meet coal production and development plans. Some progress has been made in the sphere of logistical and financial support to the mines and amalgamations that are in particularly difficult situations. Also, a positive effect was probably made by the minister's warning that contracts will only be signed with those mine directors and amalgamation general directors who can prove their ability to cope with problems and ensure a stable growth of production.

[Russov] **In his report, the minister pointed to the problem of failures to pay for already mined coal, which is debilitating the entire industry, as well as the catastrophic situation with logistical support...**

[Poshtuk] This is true. I will talk more about it later. But first, I would like to note that very much is being done to improve the performance of mines thanks to so-called "internal reserves," such as the application of correct policies and the organization of work, the better use of machines and equipment, and stronger discipline at all levels. [passage omitted]

Now, let us talk about the most nagging problem—the difficult financial situation in the industry's enterprises and, above all, notorious and ever-increasing debts that customers are running in their dealings with coal miners. At the present time, all coal amalgamations have an average of 1 trillion karbovantsi [K] in bad debts, which coal users have failed to repay. Enterprises subordinated to the Ukrainian Ministry of Industry alone owe coal miners more than K7 trillion—enough to launch new longwalls and finance other urgent projects in the industry. Instead of applying relevant measures against debtors, we are advised to take up even more credits on robbing interests. Meanwhile, inflation is depreciating money which we have already earned, but which has not yet been paid to us. Given the present situation, the [coal mining] minister made a decision to suspend coal deliveries to our worst debtors. This was a tough, but justifiable decision. Measures are being considered to ship only enriched coal to our customers. Also, the issue of possible reconstruction of our industry is being examined. The experience acquired as a result of numerous reorganizations warns against hastiness in handling this matter. Nevertheless, I cannot rule out that very soon from now, efficient companies, concerns, and corporations may spring up, and that our mines will establish closer ties with prime coal users, such as metallurgical and power engineering workers. [passage omitted]

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Belarus

Top Official on Cooperation Pact With EU

WS0404081595 Minsk RESPUBLIKA in Russian 29 Mar 95 p 4

[Article by Deputy Prime Minister Mikhail Myasnikovich: "Belarus on the Path Toward European Integration"]

[FBIS Translated Text] During Belarusian President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's visit to Brussels, an important stage in the development of cooperation with the EU was completed, namely, an agreement on partnership and cooperation was signed. The agreement includes general principles and expanded tenets that will regulate mutual relations between Belarus and EU member-states for the next ten years.

The agreement on partnership and cooperation looks farther ahead than other documents that were signed between the EU and the former Soviet Union in 1989. At the time, the USSR was at the very beginning of the path toward reform, therefore, their dialogue was only limited to the framework of trade relations.

Extremely important political and economic changes have taken place over the past years. The EU has recognized Belarus as an independent state. It is also very important that the EU has acknowledged that Belarus is steadily proceeding along the path of reform, and the primary aim of cooperation is to encourage the movement of the country toward a market economy.

In essence, the agreement with the EU strikes a final chord in lengthy and difficult negotiations of Belarus with the international community, negotiations that focused on our political course in the area of market and democratic reform. This political course also includes the program of macroeconomic reform, coordinated with the IMF, which is being successfully implemented by the government, and the program of structural and systemic reform, approved by the IMF and supported by its funds. All of these programs are links in one chain. Had positive results in relations with leaders of the world economic policy not been achieved, Belarus's integration into Europe would have remained a dream for many generations of Belarusian politicians.

Of course, one must realize that the agreement with the EU, as well as similar documents and programs, will be efficient only if Belarus begins to fulfill the pledged obligations, namely, if it begins to create a law-governed state, to build a market economy, to establish democratic relations in society, to guarantee safety for investments for businessmen, who express their desire to work in the Belarusian market.

By signing the above-mentioned agreement, Belarus, in fact, establishes efficient and mutually beneficial trade and economic relations with 12 economically developed democratic states on the European continent, and if we consider that Austria, Finland, and Sweden joined the EU in 1995—with 15 states. These relations are based on nondiscriminatory trade rules, equal conditions for investments, and the most-favored nation status.

A mechanism to implement the above-mentioned principles is of a quite complex nature. One of its elements is joining GATT. To encourage this process, the agreement provides for the observance of specific rules in trade relations between Belarus and the EU, before Belarus joins multilateral trade organizations.

The sides agreed to withhold from discriminating against imported goods by introducing domestic taxes or other charges that are not imposed on domestically produced goods. Moreover, imported goods must enjoy the rights on par with domestic goods in the sphere of their selling, purchasing, transporting, distributing, and utilizing on the domestic market. The freedom for the transit of goods will also be guaranteed. These norms will apply to all goods, except textiles and steel-made goods. Trade in these goods will be regulated by various agreements.

The document, signed in Brussels, also provides for taking relevant measures in situations when an increase in imports could be extremely detrimental for national producers. Such measures could be introduced, if the sides fail to regulate a problem that has emerged within 30 days. A side, against which protective measures would be introduced, has the right to introduce responsive measures only after preliminary consultations, and on the expiration of a three-year moratorium.

The agreement envisages the introduction of measures to protect domestic markets from subsidized or dumping imports. This being the case, the sides pledge to jointly seek a constructive resolution of problems before antidumping duties are introduced. There even exists a mechanism—tariff protection—that ensures equality in trade. By the way, the level of tariff protection of Belarusian exports is quiet low. In addition, since 1 January 1993, Belarus has enjoyed the privileges of the EU general system of preferences [obshchaya sistema preferentsiy].

To ensure implementation of the equality principle in investments, European companies will be established on the principles that are no less favorable than those granted to Belarusian companies and companies of third countries. The same principle also refers to Belarusian companies that are established in the EU.

By the way, the agreement stipulates that the countries could sidestep such a national-system principle [printsip natsionalnogo rezhima], in a case where a particular institution and the activity of companies in a limited number of sectors would need protection. To provide investors with guarantees, packages of bilateral agreements on the encouragement and mutual protection of investments, as well as on avoiding dual taxation will be developed and signed. Important steps toward liberalization of the movement of capital between Belarus and the

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EU have also been taken. Direct investments of EU citizens and companies will be accepted without any restrictions, as well as the repatriation of such investments and profits from them. The same principle will also apply to investments of Belarusian citizens and companies in the EU.

Belarus and the EU have agreed to grant the most-favored nation status to each other in the area of payments, methods of payments, and the movement of capital. The sides will cooperate in establishing an efficient system to regulate the movement of capital and payments in Belarus that, as we expect, will allow limiting the flow of capital from our Republic.

An agreement has been reached to the effect that all payments connected with trading in goods, services, or the movement of capital will be conducted in hard currency. In addition, a variety of other agreements provide for the abolishment of hard-currency restrictions on trading in goods and services. Belarusian banks will be able to establish their branches in the EU. Similarly, however, with specific restrictions, Belarus will be open to European banks.

In particular, it has been envisaged that our Republic will grant a status similar to that enjoyed by national banks to the banks from EU member-states, although with some exceptions; it has also been stipulated that most exceptions from the national-system principle will be abolished within a specific period of time after the agreement becomes effective. Similar principles for insurance companies will also be established.

Impressive progress was achieved in resolving complex issues covering the regulation of labor markets. Even though access to EU labor markets remains in the domain of each separate state, the sides, nevertheless, have acknowledged that the creation of more favorable conditions for hired workers and businessmen will effect positively the business area in general. The document expands the maneuverability of the companies' personnel in the sphere of its intercompany transfers, provided that such employees occupy top positions in the company. This document also envisages the nondiscriminatory system of rules for employees, who were legally employed in a EU member-state and in Belarus.

An agreement to discuss the improvement of labor conditions for businessmen has been reached. First, the prompt issuing of visas and permanent residence cards will be a subject of particular attention. Privileges enjoyed by key personnel of companies and by cross-border suppliers of services will not be abolished or hindered by bureaucratic procedures. It has also been decided to sign various agreements on insurance coverage of Belarusian citizens living in EU member-states, and the other way around.

The companies handling crossborder trade and services in an entire range of areas will be granted the most-favored nation status. Representatives of these companies will be granted permission to enter Belarus or EU member-states on a temporary basis. This, primarily, refers to companies rendering various engineering services in such areas as architectural design, database and computer services, advertising, marketing, conducting polls, management advisement, technical tests and studies, specific telecommunication services, and so on. A list of services will be drafted as soon as the results of the Paraguay round of talks within the GATT framework are finally implemented. In the future, the sides intend to liberalize their sectors of services to a greater extent.

One more important issue is the establishment of conditions for fair competition. The sides have pledged to remove restrictions in competition between enterprises that were set up by legislation and bureaucratic practice. In particular, any export assistance to specific enterprises and production of goods (Belarus will obtain the right to use such assistance to support enterprises undergoing structural reconstruction or experiencing social problems) has not been abolished. The EU has pledged to support our Republic with reports on market competition, and to render assistance in developing and implementing the rules of competition.

Finally, measures in the area of harmonization of the body of legislation must be mentioned. They are connected with the introduction of single accounting rules, taxation of companies, labor conditions, protection of consumers' rights, and environmental protection.

The agreement also provides for the development of cooperation in such areas as agricultural management, construction, power engineering and nuclear power engineering, environmental protection, transportation, electricity lines, raw materials' industry, state purchases, the development of small and medium enterprises in provinces, a social sector, standards, statistics, and tourism. This cooperation will be primarily conducted within the framework of the EU Technical Assistance Program for CIS [TACIS]. This program is divided into national and interstate programs. According to the national TACIS alone, the EU technical assistance to Belarus totaled 42 million European Currency Units between 1991 and 1995. The concluded agreement covers the first ten years, and will be extended annually. It will come into force only after its ratification by parliaments of EU member-states, the European Parliament, and the Belarusian Supreme Soviet.

To more promptly implement several most important tenets of this document, Belarus and the European Commission will conduct negotiations on an intermediary agreement that will primarily apply to the tenets of the agreement on partnership and cooperation in the area of trade, and to other tenets that are in the area of the EU competence.

Even though at the first stage the agreement on partnership and cooperation remains an agreement of a non-preferential nature, the sides intend to resume negotiations in 1998 to study the course of reform in Belarus

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and resolve whether their progress allows the establishment of a free trade zone. If a free trade zone is established, it would be possible to state that Belarus has actually integrated—not just in words—into the European economic space.

Radio on 'Just Received' 10 Feb CIS Security Accord

WS0404075295 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1200 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Our editorial staff has received the text of a declaration of the states that are parties to the agreement on collective security, which was signed by the heads of CIS states in Almaty on 10 February 1995.

The declaration states that the agreement on collective security provides a foundation for the creation of a new structure of security and is intended to promote the further development of positive processes, both in mutual relations between parties to the agreement and on a wider scale—in the international arena—so as to (?officially) resolve new tasks in the sphere of security and cooperation.

The parties to the agreement confirmed in the declaration their obligations to restrain from the use or threat of force, and to settle all differences—both between themselves and with other states—exclusively through peaceful means. They shall not participate in any actions against other parties to the agreement and, if need be, a mechanism for mutual compensation shall immediately be implemented.

The states that signed this [word indistinct] declaration consider the Partnership for Peace program proposed by NATO as a real alternative to a formal expansion of NATO; they think that the practical implementation of this program should be oriented toward the forming of a universal, all-European structure of military political cooperation, which strengthens the fundamentals of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

We familiarized you with the main tenets of the declaration on collective security, the text of which our editorial staff has just now received.

Russian Minister on Removal of Border Controls

LD0204095395 Moscow Russian Public Television First Channel Network in Russian 0500 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Russian Deputy Prime Minister Aleksey Bolshakov has been busy during the past few days developing the Russian-Belarusian border.

[Correspondent Mikhail Aleksandridi] Today's trip through the Bryansk area by Aleksey Bolshakov put a question mark over the existence of dozens of checkpoints on the Russian-Belarusian border. The deputy prime minister intends to do everything possible to see that the first stage of implementing the customs union agreement between the two countries is completed on schedule, by 6 May.

[Begin recording] [Bolshakov] After we carry out these reciprocal procedures to recognize a standard normative base in foreign trade, price setting, and taxation, we shall have no obstacles to the physical removal of the customs posts that exist today between Russia and Belarus.

[Belarusian Deputy Prime Minister M. Myasnikovich] The consensus of the government in which I work is to remove the barriers. [end recording]

[Aleksandridi] Incidentally, some specialists claim that even if the outlines of a single customs space are clearer by 6 May, the checkpoints will only become redundant after Moscow and Minsk have solved important bilateral questions—specifically, those relating to unification of the tax systems.

Lukashenka Issues Edict on Election Campaign

LD0304191795 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1649 GMT 3 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Alyaksandr Lukashenka signed on Monday [3 April] the decree "On ensuring equal opportunities for citizens in preparing and holding parliamentary elections in Belarus." Elections have been scheduled for May 14.

The document instructs the Central Electoral Commission "to strictly control the distribution and use of the money set aside for preparing and holding elections." If a candidate has spent more than is envisaged for his election campaign, the commission is entitled to eliminate him from the list of registered candidates.

The decree also bars prohibits direct or indirect participation of political parties, public associations, enterprises, and foreign organizations "in financing the election campaign and in rendering any other material assistance to it."

Candidates are not allowed to publish their programs and meet with constituents before the registration of all candidates.

The decree makes a reservation that candidates working at state-run enterprises must suspend their prime jobs for the period of their participation in elections.

Municipalities must see to it that no unsanctioned rallies, demonstrations, and other actions aimed at boycotting elections, take place. Local electoral bodies are obliged to take into account cases of agitation, "which fans up social, national or religious hatred, calls for seizing power, changing the constitutional system by force, and encroaching on the integrity of the state."

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Lukashenka Referendum Proposals Viewed

MM0304120495 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[Article by Aleksandr Starikevich: "A Referendum Can Be Added to All Belarus' Problems"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Minsk—The Belarusian president's latest initiative could lead to a drastic deepening of the split in society. Aleksandr Lukashenka wants to hold a referendum on four questions which strike him as most important at this stage: on the state symbols, the status of the Russian language, ties with Russia, and granting the president the right to dissolve the Supreme Soviet.

The last question needs no comment: Since the head of Belarus has always felt ill will toward parliament, and the topic of its dissolution is one of the favorite topics on the president's staff, Lukashenka is preparing a juridical base for the upcoming decision. As for stepping up the processes of integration with Russia, the wording proposed by the president permits a very wide interpretation of the referendum results, whatever they might be.

The questions of the state symbols and of language are a special topic. Less than four years ago Belarus returned to its historical flag and coat of arms. Throughout this time procommunist circles have mounted an active campaign against the symbols, which were used at the time of the fascist occupation. At the same time their considerably earlier origins have been totally ignored. The left-wing forces' efforts were crowned by Aleksandr Lukashenka's speech to a session of parliament, when he showed the deputies relatively new versions of the flag and coat of arms. Relatively new, because they are the slightly edited symbols of the Belorussian Soviet Socialist Republic. This all looked sad: The president, standing on the rostrum, was waving a sheet from an ordinary school drawing book, on which his own workings-out were displayed. As for equalizing the rights of the Belarusian and Russian languages, Lukashenka is evidently raising this question in his own personal interest. The president of Belarus is probably the world's only leader of a country who does not know its state language.

In order to cut the cost of holding the referendum, Lukashenka has proposed combining it with the first round of the parliamentary elections. But this saving will not cover the cost of replacing all the state symbols, including those on bank notes and on the new passports, which have already been printed. It is not hard to predict also the sarcastic reaction of the world public to a country which changes its symbols every few years, the way people change gloves.

The Supreme Soviet has not yet made a decision on the referendum. But the parliamentary commission on legislation has already concluded that two of the four questions must not be put to a nationwide vote (in particular, the existing legislation prohibits tackling language problems in this way), and the two others may be put to the vote only in a consultative manner.

In advancing these proposals, Aleksandr Lukashenka was undoubtedly hoping to strengthen his pretty well shaken positions among the electorate. But this time he has not calculated the reaction of society quite correctly—his ideas are supported by far fewer people than was expected. Many citizens of Belarus express bewilderment at the president's concern not with economic problems but with questions of language and symbols, which have never been particularly painful here.

Nevertheless, the president will most likely hold the referendum 14 May regardless of the Supreme Soviet's decision—he can schedule it in the form of a poll by means of an edict. A different version of the development of events also cannot be ruled out: Having seen for himself that the majority of voters have reacted adversely, Lukashenka might cut his losses and hold back on the idea of resolving state questions by means of a nationwide vote until better times.

Radiation Source Found at Former Military Site

WS0304120695 Minsk SVABODA in Belarusian 31 Mar 95 p 2

[Report by Ales Dashchynski: "'Mini-Chernobyl' Detected in Vawkavysk"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **Last week, a radioactive area was detected in Vawkavysk with gamma radiation equal to 70 roentgens per hour—it is millions (!) of times higher than natural background radiation.**

The area was located on Chyrvonaarmeyskaya Street at the deployment site of a military unit that left town last year. Due to a meticulous search using meters, the source of radiation was found—it was a capsule (20 centimeters in diameter) dug 15 centimeters into the ground.

The chief sanitary inspector of the rayon, Viktar Pyshny, told a SVABODA correspondent that, according to his information, the servicemen stored radioactive isotopes in a cellar. However, when leaving town, they had not told anybody about this.

Apparently, the capsule stayed in the ground for no less than a year, and "shone" all this time.

Local radio aired a special announcement requesting all people who had visited the site to go for medical checkups.

Moldova

Popov: Interest in Military Cooperation With NATO

LD0304161495 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] CHISINAU, April 3 (Interfax)—Moldova is not striving to become a NATO

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member. At the same time, it is interested in cooperation with the alliance in the "Euro-Atlantic space," Moldovan Foreign Minister Mikhail Popov told Interfax in Chisinau today.

He reminded that Chisinau was one of the first in the Commonwealth to support and join the NATO Partnership for Peace program. "We are now working on an individual program of partnership with the alliance," said Popov. This program is expected to provide for active Moldovan participation in NATO arrangements.

In the words of Popov, Moldova views cooperation with NATO as an additional safety guarantee.

Speaking of the Moldovan attitude to the Commonwealth, he stressed they are ready to develop economic cooperation within the organization of the former Soviet republics.

"As for military-political cooperation with the Commonwealth, Chisinau will further abstain from any contacts of this sort. This was the reservation used by the republican parliament to ratify documents on Moldovan joining the Commonwealth," he added.

Sangheli Favors Reorganization of Educational System

AU0304185795 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1930 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 1/4/1995—The Government will examine the reorganization of higher education on Tuesday, stated today Premier Sangheli at a meeting with Cantemir district school principals. The premier said there is a regrettable gap between intellectuals and peasants and the reason is "the difficult financial situation we found ourselves." Sangheli stated the Chisinau strikers should be told that out of inertia too many qualified specialists were prepared in Moldova and this problem will be tackled. The government will also examine possibilities of increasing students' stipends and professors' salaries, but will set rigorous requirements regarding their distribution. Sangheli said that there are too many teachers, doctors, constructors in Moldova and so few linguists, translators, lawyers and therefore, higher education should be reorganized. Referring to the education of all levels, Sangheli said: "We will stimulate the directors of all approximately 2,000 educational institutions that there are in Moldova, but we will raise our requirements. We can change governments, parliaments, presidents, but if we change the Constitution and educational system, the country will be ruled by chaos." The premier noted that not the social problems caused the strike in Chisinau, but political motives and that he knows the strike was organized by certain people interested to tension the situation and extend the disorders before the election. Sangheli alleged that several groups were sent from Romania to Chisinau, two of which, from Timisoara, were detained on the border. "We have a history of Moldovans and we should study the history of this country, the history of Moldova. We might be Moldovans, Russians, Bulgarians or Turks, but if we live in Moldova we should study the History of Moldova," said Sangheli. According to him a right track, between the two positions currently used—one that "all must be settled by scientists" and the other "politicians and not the scientists have to settle all the problems, including those regarding the language and history"—should be found. In another context, the premier said that after Moldova's reintegration, the economic crisis will be overcome in the next 2-3 years. "And if in the next 2-3 years we will be united and constructive then we will outdo many neighbouring republic of the former USSR and former socialist bloc," said Sangheli.

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Kazakhstan

Central Asian Bank Grants First Loan

LD0304193895 Almaty Kazakhstan Television Network in Russian 1400 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Central Asian Bank for Cooperation and Development has started tackling its set tasks in specific terms. Today the first credit was granted, to fund the joint-stock company Sayman.

To start with, let us recall a bit about the history of the formation of the Central Asian Bank. It was set up under an agreement between the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, and the Republic of Uzbekistan signed by the heads of states in Almaty on 8 July 1994. The initial charter was approved at the council of prime ministers of the three countries in Bishkek on 5 August 1994. Satypaldy Sazanov, who had 18 years of banking behind him, was appointed president of the bank at this point.

At a trilateral meeting held after the last summit of heads of CIS states on 10 February, the presidents of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and Uzbekistan gave an assurance that the agreements that had been signed would be put into practice.

Why has the first credit from this bank gone to fund the project of the Sayman joint stock company, which makes electricity meters? First, as Serik Primbetov, chairman of the executive committee of the three republics' intergovernmental council noted, this project is of regional importance. The fact that electricity meters are now in very short supply does not have to be proved. The 20 billion tenge credit allocated today, at an interest rate of 15 percent per annum, will help calculate and monitor electricity consumption. Sagyn Tazhekenov, the chairman of the Sayman joint stock company's board, told us that the first output from the enterprise will appear in May.

So the first credit has been granted. What next?

[Begin Satypaldy Sazanov recording] There are major projects such as the revival and reconstruction of a phosphorus plant in Dzhambul, there is a project to support car production in Uzbekistan, and there are several projects in Kyrgyzstan. [end recording]

Yertysbayev on New Parliament's Position

954F1950A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 29 Mar 95 pp 1, 3

[Article by Yermukhamet Yertysbayev under the heading: "Deputyship Simply Cannot Find a Place for Itself in the Reforms": "Will We Learn the Lessons?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The fact of the elections being deemed anticonstitutional and the Supreme Council illegitimate is now history. Despite the impartial events of 6-11 March of this year, unprecedented in terms of their nature and content (analogies in world history cannot, perhaps, be found), it may confidently be said that Kazakhstan has embarked firmly on the path of a state based on the rule of law and has enhanced its prestige in the near and far abroad as a state aspiring to the supremacy of the law. The Constitutional Court and the president, as the guarantor of the constitution, who categorically rejected power methods of a resolution of controversial conflicts, have made a tremendous contribution here.

The public is now concerned about other matters, namely, what the new parliament should be like. What place should it occupy in the reforms? What should the structure and functions of a parliament in a transitional period and the status of the deputy be? What should be the mechanism of representation of true professional politicians in the supreme legislative body of the Republic of Kazakhstan?

While still a deputy of the 12th Supreme Soviet, I maintained both from the parliamentary rostrum and in the press that the fledgling institution of the presidency and the soviets as a **form of power** were absolutely incompatible in the sense of a unified state arrangement. The Supreme Soviet as **form of soviet power** directly elected by the people, with a status and functions enshrined by the constitution, could never perform the role that is performed by the legislative body in countries with a developed market economy and democracy. The Congress of People's Deputies of the USSR was in existence for two years six months. The Supreme Soviet of the RSFSR, three years six months. The 12th Supreme Soviet of Kazakhstan, the same length of time. The first professional Kazakhstan parliament did not last a year. Disregarding the legal aspect of the recent dissolution (this has been dealt with sufficiently fully and clearly in official documents and reports), it may be concluded unequivocally that deputyship simply cannot find a serious place for itself in the reforms. And the roots of this phenomenon, in my view, go quite deep.

Happening upon a session of the Petrograd Soviet in 1921, Herbert Wells was absolutely stunned by what he saw. "We were warned," he writes, "that this legislative body was entirely unlike the British House of Commons, and this is absolutely true. Like just about everything that is done in Soviet Russia, the session astonished us by its most complete lack of preparation and spontaneous nature. It would be impossible to think of an organization less suitable for such serious and responsible functions. This is essentially a public meeting, decidedly incapable of any legislative activity whatever." Wells was one of the most benevolent and objective foreign observers to visit Soviet Russia in the time of the revolution, and his observations are a very important source making it possible to understand why the soviets, as a **form of power**, became degraded at their very sources. Of course, there could have been no question of any serious legislative body at that time on account of the general illiteracy and ignorance. But who could, hand

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on heart, maintain that there are in our society long-standing traditions of public self-government and a respectable political culture that becomes an organizing factor of its own accord?

When adopting the "second constitution"—the Civil Code—the deputies endeavored at every step, "right off," so to speak, to make amendments to the bill, on which highly qualified lawyers had been working for several years, and Justice Minister N. Shaykenov was constantly reminding the deputies of the need to adopt a solicitous attitude toward the text. The president had to request of the deputies repeatedly that they not depart for their constituencies but immediately adopt a package of urgent laws, without which further reform of the economy was simply impossible. It reached the point where the head of state personally came to a session of the Committee for Economic Reform for work on the latest law. In parliament the government literally had to take any market undertaking with a fight. Minister A. Pavlov had to defend the market budget under the threat of dismissal, virtually. Much water has flowed since the times when Wells saw the form of work of the soviet close up, but the "omnipotence of the soviets" syndrome and the notion that the soviet representative body is a priority in relation to the executive and the judiciary persists in our society. Remember how on 11 March now ex-deputies, in fact, indicated in their "resolutions" the kind of position that should be occupied by the president, and as far as the Constitutional Court is concerned, they "abolished" it altogether.

Being elected from the people, the deputies bring to the Supreme Council not only the general rumpus and consumerist attitude toward the state but also, mainly, some feeling of superiority and a disregard for the executive. "You were appointed, I was elected." Discovering the deputy's immunity, they rapidly form a kind of "party of their own deputies' interests." Whereas the parties of the interests of the military-industrial complex, the agrarians, oil people, and the financial structures may be traced distinctly in the Russian State Duma, the "party of deputies' interests" was paramount in the activity of the first Kazakhstan professional parliament. The deputies constantly sharply criticized the policy of the government, shouted about the "impoverishment of the people," the "banefulness of the reform strategy," and the "corruption that has infected the executive," played some political games with the formation of a "shadow cabinet," and adopted some political statements and declarations, but did not forget their own privileges. A deputy of the Supreme Council is on a par with a minister both in terms of salary and in terms of all kinds of privileges—private lines, pay, general clinic, dacha, personal automobile, services, and meals. But there are a couple of dozen ministers, and there are 177 deputies (!). A minister may be removed and arraigned, a deputy has immunity.

No, I do not at all wish to impress upon the readers the idea that parliament is a harmful state body. The deputies have not forgotten about the people: They protested the increase in the price of bread and they demanded a rise in pensions and the growth and on-time payment of wages and benefits and of investments. But when one reads closely the verbatim report of the deputies' debates, one involuntarily recalls the words of the Chekhov character: "Gentlemen! Let's get down to business!" The business amounted, for example, to the adoption of a new tax code since the production workers and the rural proprietors and the businessmen are suffocating from the present tax system. The state is falling into decay, the people are suffering. That same people for whose welfare the deputies paid so much lip service.

In the transitional period any Supreme Council directly elected by the people will be, in the main, shrill, ambitious, and in some respects absurd, and demagogy and populism and untenable promises will be predominant in its polemical arsenal. I recall that last October all deputies unanimously gave up a cash bonus amounting to a month's salary: It is inappropriate, they said, "the people are starving," "it is better to return the money to the treasury." A couple of days later a decision was adopted in secret on the purchase of comfortable Italian Fiat automobiles for each deputy. From the foreign currency part of the budget, with public money, naturally. The year of operation of parliament cost the people 1.258 billion tenge. That much was spent on 177 persons. Only seven laws were adopted here: a pretty low efficiency factor. For comparison: 1.1 billion tenge were spent on the detention of 83,000 persons in places of confinement (though fallen, they also are our citizens, so to speak). The minimal appropriations for health care, education, and culture are on everyone's lips. And the miners, who, as distinct from many deputies, go to work which is hard and dangerous daily, have not been paid for months on end.

When, last October, the government adopted a decision on an increase in the price of bread products, some deputies actively opposed this, demanding the preliminary payment of the wage arrears—approximately 9 billion tenge (mainly to workers of unprofitable enterprises for unsold products). Had this happened, a loaf of bread would have cost 200 tenge, and the people could simply not have sustained the cost. But at election time the demagogues and populists enjoy the support of the people, and those who, on the other hand, tell the harsh truth have little chance of winning.

According to the constitution, any citizen with us who has attained to the age of 25 is entitled to run for parliament. Because the people are the source of power. And the elections of the president, the Supreme Council, and the local authorities are direct. These are the foundations of democracy, and they cannot be canceled, for Kazakhstan is constitutionally a democratic state. But I am extremely worried by another question: Why do the constitution and the Election Code not make high demands on parliamentary deputies? We do not appoint as the dean of a higher educational institution a person who does not have a degree and teaching experience. We

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do not appoint as the director of a foundry a person who does not know the fundamentals of production and has no managerial experience. The president recently appointed V. Khrapunov minister of power engineering and coal industry, but Khrapunov had worked for 16 years in the power engineering system and 10 years in the executive and administrative authorities. How are we to figure out how the Election Code might specify high demands on a candidate for deputy since parliament is a most important body of the state, and the fate of the state as a whole will depend on whether the deputies grasp the essence of market socioeconomic transformations and whether they understand the legal rules of law-making.

Someone observed that the main lesson of history is that history teaches nothing. But we are obliged, nonetheless, to learn serious lessons from the recent parliamentary crisis. For successful reforms, a bicameral parliament is as essential as the air we breathe, and the upper chamber must work point-blank on legislation, and the lower, point-blank on representation, what is more. It would be expedient to elect professional politicians with practical and political experience and experience of life in a "small group," the oblast councils, for example, directly elected by the people, would delegate to the upper chamber two or three "senators" with regard to the recommendations of the president. A two-tier system of elections exists in many of the world's developed countries. Few people know that the U.S. president is elected by the people not directly but via a system of electors in the states. With a bicameral parliament there would be an effective and permanent link between parliament and the oblasts. And not a phony one, like the deputy's reception of the electorate (the so-called meetings of the deputy and the electorate are nothing more than a mimicking of deputies' activity, a political game that sets the teeth on edge). A deputy of the upper chamber would render account not to a dozen voters but to a serious body like the oblast council. Aside from the final adoption of laws, supervision of their execution, the voting of the budget, and the establishment of taxes and fees and charges, the upper chamber would carry the main load of ensuring a unified operating mode with the government. As far as the lower house of parliament is concerned, it should be elected by the people directly in consolidated electoral districts (one deputy per 200,000 voters, for example), but with regard to high demands on the candidate (higher education, length of service, experience of work in the local authorities, and such). The lower chamber would be a kind of voice of the people and it could, with good organization and a clear-cut determination of functions, efficiently effect the representation of the people.

I am not sure that this format is ideal. There is no need to be in any hurry with the elections. Especially since such a format requires constitutional reform (it is perfectly obvious that the present constitution is impeding the reform of society and the state as a whole). Yet some "politicians" and some restless ex-deputies are discussing seriously the possibility of making Kazakhstan a parliamentary republic. A parliamentary republic would be a real catastrophe for the state. And the paramount task is to strengthen the institution of the presidency and to begin the broad-based building of a presidential republic as quickly as possible. The system of checks and balances needs to be understood and interpreted not as the independence of the three branches of power from one another (this is absurd, this is not the case in any civilized country) but as a unified strong state authority with a clear-cut demarcation of the functions of the legislative, executive, and judicial authorities. With regard to the scale of the reforms, a particular role devolves to the executive and administrative authorities. But this is a different subject.

People's Congress Party Principles Outlined

954F1969A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Extracts" of report by Olzhas Suleymenov, chairman of the People's Congress of Kazakhstan, at second city conference of the People's Congress of Kazakhstan Party in Almaty; date not given: 'Never Mind Who Wins, Just As Long As Kazakhstan Does Not Lose'"]

[FBIS Translated Text] **The second city conference of the People's Congress of Kazakhstan Party was held in Almaty recently. The report was presented by Olzhas Suleymenov, chairman of the NKK [People's Congress of Kazakhstan]. We offer for readers' attention extracts from the report, which, it would seem to us, answer the questions that have been arising recently about the party itself and its assessments of the current moment.**

The Assembly

The first session of the Assembly of the Peoples of Kazakhstan was held yesterday. It was conceived three years ago. An interesting and necessary idea—assembling in a permanent body the most authoritative representatives of all the national communities of the republic. Each has its problems of a cultural or economic and political plane. But they, these questions, cannot be heard in the atmosphere of the clamorous dialogue of the two leading nations. And the questions are serious. We all know, for example, how many Kazakh schools and how many thousand Russian schools there are in Kazakhstan. But which of us has inquired about how many teach in Uighur, Chechen, or Korean? I, for example, know that of the republic's 1.2 million Germans, 800,000 remain. And only recently, a month ago, I was told how many German schools there are in Kazakhstan. One. Perhaps this also is a factor among those prompting the Germans to leave. The assembly could help resolve such problems that do not receive publicity.

Meanwhile, about the report. I have to confess that I liked the report. The content and the form and the style. Yes, we are a multinational country. But we have yet to fully recognize this fact as an advantage of Kazakhstan. Yes, we are preserving civil peace and beginning to

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recognize this as the supreme value. We need to preserve and multiply this wealth, authoritatively opposing all forms of the manifestation of national and racial exclusiveness.

Parties

The assembly will not substitute for parliament or the political parties—it has other functions. Party work must continue, responding rationally to the changing situation and altering tactics, but not goals or principles.

The new states, which have embarked or are embarking on the path of democratic development, are thus far experiencing the initial stage of a multiparty system, which, while dressing up in an interparty power struggle, frequently amounts for the sake of calm, to a one-party system.

The spectrum of parties in Kazakhstan is not as extensive as in Russia. The program goals of some of them differ little from one another, and they could in principle unite in one organization.

The NKK

The NKK emerged in October 1991 in the Kazakh SSR and represented with us the first party of the new type proclaiming the priority of the rights and interests of the individual, regardless of national, social, religious, and sexual distinctions. Our primary theoretical source was the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Politically, we advocated and continue to advocate the legal equality of all citizens of the Republic of Kazakhstan and oppose privileges on a class or national basis, not counting as privileges state support for the socially weak strata of society.

The motto "We the People of Kazakhstan!" expresses the party's ideology.

At the recent Nayryz holiday each interview on the street contained an appeal for a strengthening of peace and interethnic accord. And this was not being said by people specially taught to say it; life itself is forcing them to express this desire.

Parliament

The overthrow of the Supreme Council stunned the deputies, but evoked no storm of indignation in society. This response had been foreseen by the analysts: A certain disrespectful attitude has taken shape among the population toward the parliaments in the post-Soviet republics as rowdy, confused, and useless makeweights to the executive. Even the shooting up of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow did not raise the electorate of Russia in its defense. And our less dramatic events were perceived even more apathetically.

The question naturally arises: Is such an authority needed at all? Holding costly elections and diverting budget monies for the upkeep of a corps of deputies (1.2 billion tenge a year) when there is not enough money for wages and pensions? Would it not be simpler to make those same bills prepared by the government laws by presidential signature without lengthy discussion?

But could Kazakhstan manage without a parliament? Yes, if we lived in isolation from the whole world. It could manage without parties, public movements, a multitude of newspapers, and such. But all the metal of Kazakhstan and Russia would be insufficient for a new iron curtain. And account has to be taken, therefore, of world public opinion concerning the need for new elections. But what kind of Supreme Council do we now need? Everyone should be giving thought to this.

Methods of Struggle

We are not divesting ourselves of the burden of opposition. We will show that a genuine constructive opposition is not an enemy of society or the authorities but a permanent legal participant in a critical dialogue, which contributes to an improvement in people's life.

During the parliamentary crisis KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA carried a photograph of General Dudayev offering prayers and of myself standing behind him. The meaning of this publication: This is who is backing Dudayev. The photograph was not dated, and it is easy for the reader to understand, therefore, that all this is happening in our time.

In actual fact, this photograph was taken on 23 February 1994 at a public meeting in Groznyy, where a deplorable date—the 50th anniversary of the deportation of the Chechen and Ingush to Kazakhstan—was being commemorated. And I, as the sponsor of a law on the rehabilitation of repressed peoples, had received an invitation to take part in this meeting. And I concluded my speech with the words: "Let war not come to the land of the Vaynakhs!" It came. And now I am chairman of a fund for assistance to the suffering peaceful population of Chechnya.

Truths

What is the worth of a people who have not preserved the purity of a single name in their history? We have killed off Makhambet, humiliated Chokan and Abay, and hunted down Shakrim and Makzhan—hundreds of our shining personalities, without whom the people have become even more benighted. A great people makes even its small ones great. A small people abases even its great ones. This is why it is small. It would be good were we to remember this truth in our time also.

Nevada-Semey And So Forth

The NKK Party was allocated 5 million rubles. These figures and all subsequent ones were documented and verified by the pertinent authorities throughout 1993 and 1994.

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Aside from this, the Nevada-Semey Stock Company did more for charity than all the other wealthier and extensively publicized firms. The Nevada-Semey case should have been studied more closely. A case which ended without having gone to trial.

As far as the Interkaspiy Firm and the $100,000 that it spent on the purchase of automobiles are concerned, automobiles of the Gorkiy Plant—Volgas—were purchased. And not at public expense but from the profits of the firm, which could spend them on its shareholders. One vehicle was transferred to the Nevada-Semipalatinsk movement, one to the newspapers NARODNYY KONGRESS and KHALYK KONGRESSI, one to the party's central staff, and three to oblast branches. The firm is using the rest itself.

It is essential to foster in society respect for the human personality, for the document, for a political opponent. Without this, a civilized state based on the rule of law cannot be built. And the news media are required to be the conduit of this direction.

The Constitution

It is clear today that a new version of the constitution is being prepared. What changes will be made to the draft? We may firmly anticipate the content of some and formulate our attitude toward them.

...We are opposed to the total privatization of the land. It is contrary to popular traditions. We are for partial privatization and the transfer to private ownership of the plots of territory attached to privatized facilities.

The principles of the term and indefinite lease shall operate together with this. Particularly in rural localities. Of the cooperative and communal holding.

We advocate Kazakh remaining the state language and the status of official language rightly being imparted to Russian in the new version of the Constitution of the Republic of Kazakhstan. And these concepts being interpreted in detail.

Edict on Destatization, Privatization Law

954F1971A Almaty KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

["Edict of the President of the Kazakhstan Republic Having the Force of Law: On the Introduction of Amendments to the Kazakhstan Republic Law on Destatization and Privatization;"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In accordance with Article 1 of the Kazakhstan Republic Law "On Temporary Delegation of Supplemental Authority to the President of the Kazakhstan Republic and Heads of Local Administrations," dated 10 December 1993, **I decree:**

I. To introduce the following amendments to the Kazakhstan Republic Law "On Destatization and Privatization" (VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA KAZAKHSKOY SSR, 1991, No. 27, Art. 349; VEDOMOSTI VERKHOVNOGO SOVETA RESPUBLIKI KAZAKHSTAN, 1992, No. 6, Art. 113; 1993, No. 9, Art. 218):

In Article 5:

Change the first part to read as follows:

"1. Destatization and privatization of state property of the Kazakhstan Republic are carried out by state organs instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic (henceforth termed authorized organs)";

In the second part, replace the words "of the Kazakhstan Republic State Committee for State Property" with the words "of the authorized organ";

Change Article 6 to read as follows:

"Article 6. State organs effecting destatization and privatization.

1. The interests of the state with respect to property of the Kazakhstan Republic are represented by state organs instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic .

2. Decisions of these organs respecting the disposition of state property which are adopted within their competence are carried out on a mandatory basis by the organs of state government of all levels.

3. The authority of state organs engaged in destatization and privatization is determined by statutes ratified by the Cabinet of Ministers of the Kazakhstan Republic";

In the fourth part of **Article 7**, replace the words "by the committee" with the words "by the state organ instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic";

Change the third part of **Article 8** to read as follows:

"3. The seller of entities of state property is the state organ instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic (henceforth—seller)";

In Article 11:

In the first part, delete the words "having made a decision on the destatization and privatization of an entity of state property";

In the third part, replace the words "by the committee" with the words "by the state organ instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic";

In the first part of **Article 15**, replace the words "by the committee and Ministry of Finance" with the words "by the Cabinet of Ministers";

In Article 15, the third part of **Article 20**, the fourth part of **Article 21**, **Article 22**, and the third part of **Article 24**, replace the words "committee" and "by the committee" with the words "state organ instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic" and "by the state organ instituted by the president of the Kazakhstan Republic."

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II. This edict enters into force as of its date of publication.

[Signed] President of the Kazakhstan Republic N. NAZARBAYEV
Almaty, 17 March 1995

Kyrgyzstan

President Issues Decree on Appointment of Premier

LD0404104995 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Kyrgyz 0900 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Decree by the president of the Kyrgyz Republic on the prime minister of the Kyrgyz Republic

According to Subparagraph Two of Paragraph One, Article 46 of the Kyrgyz Republic Constitution,

by the consent of the Legislative Assembly and the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Kyrgyz Republic Supreme Council,

Apas Dzhumagulov is appointed prime minister of the Kyrgyz Republic.

[Signed] Askar Akayev, president of the Kyrgyz Republic Government House, Bishkek
1 April 1995

Akayev Expected To Win Case Against Paper

MM0304121695 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by correspondent Yuriy Razgulyayev: "Did Akayev Have a Villa?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bishkek—Citizen Akayev has brought a court action against the opposition newspaper RESPUBLIKA. The suit is a standard one for the times we live in: for libel and fabrications impugning honor and dignity.

The grounds for the action was an article which reported that the president of Kyrgyzstan had decided to build himself a house. He had chosen a site right in the center of the capital, in the courtyard of a block where his old state apartment was located. It was, of course, a convenient and prestigious location. But, as the newspaper wrote, even to start the construction the garages and sheds of people "lucky enough" to be the head of state's neighbors would have to be demolished.

This fact was confirmed. And the president had publicly to relinquish the plot of land which, it turns out, "obedient functionaries" had chosen for him. The city administration's decision was rescinded and people were reassured. What triggered the court case was the final sentence of the RESPUBLIKA article, where the correspondent asked: "So aren't a villa in Switzerland and a house in Turkey, given as a gift by President Demirel, really enough?" It is only natural that these lines should have had the most serious repercussions in the republic.

"No, I have no villas or property at all abroad," Akayev stated. "And if anyone finds any, let them immediately take them for themselves." And to ensure that no one should doubt his word, he filed a suit as an ordinary citizen.

However, there can be no doubt that the court will hear this case quickly. Without the red tape and the unjustified nonsuits to which many Kyrgyz are accustomed. And RESPUBLIKA will most likely incur a penalty. Unless the courts in their zeal make a mess of things, as happened with SVOBODNYYE GORY. Then, as you know, a few words from the president were enough to close down altogether that also very awkward newspaper.

Official Discusses Extension of President's Term

LD0304185395 Bishkek Kyrgyz Radio First Program Network in Russian 1100 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A regular media briefing was held at the Kyrgyz state news agency KABAR today. Here is a report from our correspondent Irina Sarbanova:

[Sarbanova] After giving journalists a brief run-down of the week's main events involving the president of the Kyrgyz republic, presidential press secretary Kamil Bayalinov moved on to the main part of the briefing.

[Begin Bayalinov recording] As you will be aware, a group of deputies from both houses of the Supreme Council has come up with an initiative to collect signatures in favor of prolonging the presidential term in office of Askar Akayev.

I would like to make a statement on this. Akayev has been faced with a fait accompli now that he has found out about the collection of signatures of Supreme Council deputies in favor of extending the presidential term in office by nationwide referendum.

The president of the Kyrgyz Republic has always considered, and continues to consider, that such a question must in all cases be resolved on a legal basis and in accordance with the people's will and interests. Any hasty steps here would be inappropriate.

I would like to add for myself that the idea of prolonging the presidential term of office by holding a referendum is not a new one, as our nearest neighbors in the CIS have already confirmed. It has both its pluses and its minuses. No one can yet say for definite whether there are more pluses or minuses.

In short, this phenomenon has not yet been studied exhaustively. [end recording]

[Sarbanova] The session of the Assembly of People's Representatives continues its work from 10 April, and

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the question of extending the president's term in office is clearly going to be discussed by deputies in both houses.

For the moment, more than 50 deputies in the Legislative Assembly and the Assembly of People's Representatives of the Supreme Council have signed.

Armed Forces Special Troops 'Attack' Defense Ministry

LD0404102695 Bishkek SLOVO KYRGYZSTANA in Russian 30 Mar 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] Yesterday morning [29 March], strapping men in masks broke into the strictly guarded premises of the Kyrgyz Defense Ministry. They unexpectedly jumped over fences and gates and appeared from no one knows where. The sentries at the checkpoint stood by speechless at the abruptness of the attack, and they forgot to resist. True, one of them sustained a bruise, while some woman fainted on seeing the attack.

The bold attack occurred just as the ministry personnel were preparing for parade drill. The flabbergasted officers were simply dumbfounded. Suddenly First Deputy Defense Minister General Ismail Isakov appeared, and all "outrages" stopped immediately at his signal.

It turned out that the "attack," codenamed 'Scorpion,' was secretly and carefully prepared by a narrow circle of people at the highest leadership level, and the role of the "raiders" was brilliantly played by men from the Armed Forces of Kyrgyzstan's special units. As Gen. Isakov said in conversation, this was a check on the state of security at this most important institution, and on the readiness of the Ministry's officers to repulse a sudden attack. The results of the operation will be studied and assessed.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Speaks on Relations With Russia, CIS

MM0304131595 Moscow TRUD in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 2

[Report by Valeriy Biryukov: "President Karimov's Choice"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Tashkent—We have already reported that, in accordance with the results of a referendum in Uzbekistan, the powers of the republic's president have been extended through the year 2000. Following this, Islam Karimov had a meeting with diplomats and journalists.

The president of Uzbekistan declared that the quite successful course of the economic reforms is helping to avoid mass unemployment, poverty, and migration processes. I. Karimov reported contacts, including military-technical contacts, with the United States, describing them as a very important factor in regional and global stability. According to him, however, Uzbekistan's position within the framework of cooperation with the CIS remains unchanged. The Commonwealth's potential is far from exhausted, and so there is simply no need today to cherish ideas of other associations, particularly the Eurasian Union, Karimov believes. What is needed is detailed economic integration within the Commonwealth framework and cooperation in ensuring the security of external borders. But the president of Uzbekistan spoke out categorically against creating supranational political and military structures or a joint command for the guarding of external borders. The same applies to air defense. But the republic's position with regard to developing bilateral relations with Russia as a strategic partner and the guarantor of peace and stability in the region nonetheless remains unchanged.

President Meets Tajik Opposition Leaders

LD0304193095 Tashkent Uzbekistan Television in Russian 1430 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Today, President Karimov received Haji Akbar Turajonzoda, chairman of the Islamic Rebirth Movement of Tajikistan; Otakhon Latifi, chairman of the Coordinating Center of Democratic Forces of Tajikistan; and Kholiknazarov, deputy chairman of the Democratic Party of Tajikistan, at their request.

During the meeting there was an exchange of views on ensuring regional security, the situation which has developed around Tajikistan, and ways of establishing peace and stability in that country. Both sides stressed that a way out of the grave situation in which Tajikistan finds itself can only be produced through political dialogue and a quest for reciprocal compromises, without outside pressure.

Islam Karimov said that given the current complex economic and political position in the country, the sides involved in the confrontation must engage not in clarifying the reasons for the conflict or clarifying the extent to which they are right and others are at fault; they must listen to the views of their ordinary fellow-citizens, who have undergone great suffering during the well-known tragic events and who want only one thing—peace and constructive work. We, more than anyone else, have an interest in the Tajik question being resolved as soon as possible, the president said. And we are ready to render any kind of assistance to the peace process and to creating the conditions needed for the consistent pursuit of dialogue between the Tajik Goverment and the opposition.

Islam Karimov called on the opposition to renounce military, extremist means of attaining its goals, because this is in no way in the interests of the Tajik nation and the people of Tajikistan. The president particularly underlined that the countries in the region, the CIS member states, and of course such authoritative international organizations as the United Nations and the

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Organization of Security and Cooperation in Europe, could make a weighty contribution to the peace process.

The participants in the meeting spoke in favour of continuing the inter-Tajik dialogue in a constructive spirit, taking the interests of the whole of society in Tajikistan into account.

Ten Accords Signed During Karimov Moldova Visit

LD0404090395 Tashkent NARODNOYE SLOVO in Russian 4 Apr 95 p 1

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At the invitation of President Mircea Snegur of Moldova, the president of our republic Islam Karimov made an official visit to that country on 30-31 March.

Talks were held between the heads of the two states during the visit, which passed in a friendly atmosphere. More than ten bilateral documents were signed. Among them are a Treaty on Friendship and Cooperation, agreements on trade and economic relations in 1995, on free trade, on establishing accounts between the Central Bank of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the National Bank of the Republic of Moldova, on cooperation in the sphere of science and technology, culture and arts, electronic and postal communications, on establishing air links, and on avoiding dual taxation of revenues, among others. [passage omitted]

Japanese Bank Grants $85 Million Equipment Credit

LD0304140295 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1042 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow April 3 BUSINESS-TASS—Chairman of the board of the Export-Import Bank of Japan Hiroshi Yasuda signed an interbank agreement to grant credit to the National Bank for Foreign Economic Activity of the Republic of Uzbekistan to a total sum of around 8.91 billion yen (approximately 85 million U.S. dollars). The credit will be used for the purchasing of equipment from Japan and other countries to implement the Kondumalak oil and gas project which is to be executed by the Uzbek oil and gas agency Uzbekneftegaz.

The project is an area of cooperation between Japan and the United States and is financed jointly with the Export-Import Bank of the United States.

Uzbekistan at present depends on the import of oil from Russia. The implementation of the project will help Uzbekistan meet its needs in energy.

New Criminal Code Analyzed

LD0204163995 Tashkent TASHKENTSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Boris Mirenskiy, doctor of legal sciences and member of the working commission that drafted the criminal code: "Criminal Code as Reflected in our Lives"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The new Criminal Code of the Republic of Uzbekistan comes into effect on 1 April. That is no joke, but a very serious matter.

What is Wrong With the Old One?

The Criminal Code that has been in effect up until now, but is already history, was adopted on 21 May 1959. It has to be admitted that over the 30 years of its existence it served as quite a good basis for the fight against crime, but that it gradually became to lose its relevance to changing social relationships. Changes and additions were made to some of its standards on five or six occasions. The Criminal Code had a number of new articles added to it. Later on the publication of new editions could not keep pace with the new points that were appearing in it.

The main thing, however, was that the Criminal Code was increasingly failing to reflect the transition to market relationships.

The Authors

Work on the new Criminal Code was conducted over several years under the direct guidance of Supreme Assembly Chairman Erkin Khalilov and Justice Minister Alisher Mardiyev. An active part in drafting the code was taken legal academics from the Institute of Philosophy and Law of the Academy Sciences: G. Ahmedov, I. Hakimov; and from Tashkent State Law Institute: M. Rustambayev, Yu. Karaketov, and M. Usmanaliyev of Tashkent Institute of Law; A. Yakubov from the Academy of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, A. Yuldashev from the Supreme Assembly Administration, leading members of the Supreme Court, Internal Affairs Ministry, and Prosecutor's Office of the republic. [passage omitted]

In Compliance With the Standards of International Law

What, then, are the main features of the new Criminal Code? First and foremost, it is characterized by its adherence to the main principles and standards of international law and human rights. Article 1 of the new Criminal Code states that "the criminal legislation of the Republic of Uzbekistan is based on generally-accepted standards of international law."

There are many standards in the Criminal Code that are of international legal significance. This particularly applies to Section 2, "Crimes against Peace and Security," in which crimes such as aggression (Article 151), breach of the laws and conventions of war (Article 152), genocide (Article 153), [acting as] mercenaries (Article 154), terrorism (Article 154), and so on have appeared.

Although interethnic harmony and stability have been maintained in our country thanks to the flexible policy of its leadership, there can be no doubt of the need to combat these very grave types of crime. Now that it has joined the civilized world community, Uzbekistan has made its position on them clear. Most of these types of

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crime are punishable by the longest sentences—from 10 to 20 years—or by the death sentence and confiscation of property.

Gap Closed

The new Criminal Code is the legal basis for the fight against organized crime. In the last year alone 700 organized criminal groups have been uncovered in the republic. Yet the General Section of the Criminal Code did not contain any definition of organized crime. This gap has now been closed.

Under Article 29 of the Criminal Code, "the preliminary association of two or more persons in a group with the aim of committing criminal activity jointly is deemed to be organized crime. A preliminary association of two or more organized groups in a group to commit criminal activity is deemed to be a criminal syndicate." These definitions may seem imperfect to some people, but a remarkable step forward has been made, since they have contributed to the aggravating circumstances set out as standards in the Special Section of the Criminal Code. [passage omitted]

Crime and Punishment

The system of punishment has been changed substantially. Let us begin with the concept of punishment itself, which was formerly defined only in the theory of criminal law. According to the new Criminal Code, "punishment is a compulsory measure taken on behalf of the state against a person found guilty of committing a crime by a court verdict; it consists in the deprivation or restriction of certain rights and freedoms of the convicted person in the manner prescribed by law." This definition puts an end to the academic arguments about punishment.

Re-education is no longer the aim of punishment. The task of re-educating a convict has proved to be unrealizable. Now "punishment is used to correct a convict and to prevent him from continuing with the criminal activity, as well as to prevent both him and others committing other crimes" (Article 42). These aims of punishment are now more realistic and realizable.

In accordance to this, the system of punishment has been substantially reviewed. It no longer includes such measures as exile, expulsion, dismissal from employment, the obligation to make good the damage, or public reprimands, because these measures have proved useless. Most are also out of keeping with the spirit of current conditions. Moreover, we have no place to send exiles, and expulsion has no corrective effect. Dismissal from employment takes place in accordance with the disciplinary procedures prescribed in the Labor Code. The obligation to pay damages arises out of any court sentence. A public reprimand represents moral pressure rather than a penalty imposed by criminal law.

The following basic penalties can be imposed on those found guilty of a crime: Fines, deprivation of certain rights, corrective labor, [military] service restrictions, custody [arrest], service in a [military] penal unit, imprisonment, and the death penalty.

Fines make up most of the sanctions prescribed in the Special Section of the Criminal Code. They are set at rates ranging between five and 100 times the minimum wage. If a convict fails to pay the fine imposed on him as a punishment within three months, the court replaces the outstanding sum of the fine with corrective labor, service restrictions, or arrest.

The deprivation of certain rights is laid down for crimes directly connected with the post held by the convict or with his activity. It may run for a period of one to five years as the principal punishment, or from one to three years as a supplementary one.

Corrective labor for a period of six months to three years is served as follows: The convicted person is forced to work and 10 to 30 percent of his wages are transferred to the state budget; in accordance with the court's sentence, he has to serve his term in his own post or in another place decided by the bodies that supervise implementation of this penalty.

Punishments in the form of service restrictions and service in penal units are only meted out to military servicemen. [passage omitted]

Custody is a completely new measure of criminal punishment for us. It essentially consists in holding a person in conditions of strict isolation for a term of one to six months. Custody is not applied to a person who has previously served a sentence in the form of custody or deprivation of freedom for deliberate crimes. The place where custody will take place has yet to be decided.

The terms of deprivation of freedom have also been changed. By deprivation of freedom we mean isolation of the convicted person from society by placing him in a camp or prison for between six months and 20 years in line as a punishment. Only part of the sentence can be served in prison, a maximum of five years. This applies only to especially dangerous recidivists and persons who have committed grave or very grave crimes and who have received sentences of more than five years.

Deprivation of freedom for 25 years has been established only as a substitute sentence for the death penalty, that is, for those granted mercy by the president of the country.

In addition to the principal punishments, convicted persons may also be subject to supplementary punishments in the shape of deprivation of military rank or special title, or confiscation of property.

The following have been abolished: Conditional sentencing to deprivation of freedom with the convicted person forced to do compulsory labor; deferment of execution of a sentence; release from criminal liability with subsequent imposition of administrative liability,

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with the person handed over on bail to a public organization, or with the case being handed over to a comrades' court: and conditional release from the place of deprivation of freedom with the convicted person then being forced to do compulsory labor.

In the Conditions of Economic Freedom

In our opinion, the Special Section of the Criminal Code is characterized on the one hand, by the decriminalization of acts previously considered to be dangerous to society, and on the other, by the criminalization of social phenomena engendered by the transition to market relationships and achievements in scientific and technological progress.

Decriminalization is shown by the fact that the Criminal Code contains no articles on, for instance, liability for speculation, negligent economic management, private enterprise activity, commercial mediation, illegally carrying cold steel, and some other types of activity formerly considered to be criminal. This is the effect of changes that have taken place in social relationships, as well as of the fact that most of them no longer represent dangers to society.

At the same time, there are new corpora delicti such as the conclusion of deals running counter to the interests of the Republic of Uzbekistan (Article 175), concealment of foreign currency (Article 178), fraudulent business activity (Article 179), fraudulent bankruptcy (Article 180), concealment of bankruptcy (Article 181), breach of customs legislation (Article 182), breach of antimonopoly legislation (Article 183), evasion of tax and other payments (Article 184), illegal trade or mediatory activity (Article 188), breach of trade and service regulations (Article 189), unlicensed activity (Article 190), the illegal gathering, publication, or use of information (Article 191), discrediting of a competitor (Article 192), and other points directly aimed at preventing crime under conditions where there is economic freedom and where enterprise is developing.

The Criminal Code also envisages liability for infringing information technology rules, in other words, unsanctioned access to such networks without the necessary protection; the illegal acquisition of information from them, the intentional alteration, loss, removal, or deletion of information, resulting in substantial damage, during authorized work with information technology systems; creation of computer viruses or programs and unsanctioned distribution of them with the aim of altering data or programs stored in computer systems; and unsanctioned access to an information technology system that results in distortion or removal of information or causes the system to stop functioning (Article 174). It is no coincidence that so much attention is paid to the above crime, since it reflects the need to protect our society as it becomes computerized.

The Criminal Code pays particular attention to crimes in the area of ecology (Section 4). Environmental protection and the rules for using natural resources require reliable protection by criminal law. The law-enforcement organizations, the prosecutor's office in particular, are thus constantly monitoring various breaches of the ecological safety standards and requirements. [passage omitted]

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Armenia

Prime Minister Meets With Russia's Gaydar

LD0304184695 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1546 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] YEREVAN, April 3 (Interfax)—Leader of the Russia's Democratic Choice party and the Russia's Choice parliamentary group Yegor Gaydar said he was in favor of developing trade-economic cooperation between Russia and Armenia.

The Russia's Democratic Choice party will do its best to contribute to developing and strengthening these relations, Gaydar told Armenian Prime Minister Hrant Bagratyan during their meeting in Yerevan today.

Gaydar said he backed the efforts made by the Armenian cabinet to implement market reforms in the republic's economy.

Bagratyan said the Armenian government considered it as its priority duty to create for enterprises and businessmen appropriate conditions and opportunities for free trade.

He said corresponding legislation was now being drafted and amended.

Gaydar is now in Yerevan on the invitation of the leaders of the ruling Armenian Nationwide Movement.

Northeastern Border Under Fire From Azerbaijan

NC0304151695 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1300 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that tension still persists on the republic's northeastern border. The Azerbaijani armed formations shelled with brief intervals the defensive positions of Vahan in Krasnoselsk, Perdavan in Noyemberyan, and Pergaper in Ijevan between 1830 and 2330 yesterday using large-caliber machine guns and various other firearms. There were no casualties or material damage.

The Armenian Army units forced the enemy to cease firing. No incidents were registered in the rest of the Republic's regions. We were informed about this at noon today; since then we have received no additional information.

The press service of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Defense Army reported that the cease-fire is being observed on all the Karabakh fronts.

President Calls For Church Reunification

NC0304211395 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1700 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A church service was held at Holy See Echmiadzin today and the national ecclesiastical election campaign began. Gevorg Nazaryan reporting.

[Begin recording] [Nazaryan] Echmiadzin woke up earlier than usual. The city had a festive atmosphere ready to welcome the guests. Armenian church fathers from all over the world have now gathered at the center of the Armenian faith, Holy Echmiadzin. The day has arrived for the nation and the church to elect one of its worthy sons as Catholicos of the All the Armenians; that is, its patriarch.

A church service was held at 0900 at the cathedral. [passage omitted]

After the service, the national synod opened its meeting at the Catholicos' residence. Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan, Chairman of Supreme Council Babken Ararktsyan, Vice President Gagik Harutyunyan, Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan, Acting Director of All Armenia Fund Manushak Petrosian, Acting Chairman of Nagorno-Karabakh Republic Parliament Karen Baburyan, Prime Minister Leonard Petrosyan, and other officials were present.

Addressing those present, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said:

[Ter-Petrosyan] Your Holiness, gracious fathers, and esteemed delegates of the national synod. After having paid deep respects and filial gratitude to the bright memory of Catholicos of All the Armenians Vazgen I, you have now gathered here to participate in an ecclesiastical and national historic event which for the first time in the last 600 years is taking place in an independent Armenian state. This fact, and the unprecedented number of representatives at the national synod are the most magnificent manifestation of the importance with which your sacred mission has been invested. The national synod is taking place in an atmosphere of consolidation of the newly independent Armenian statehood which inspires optimism. Regardless, of the bitter trials that have befallen Armenia and the difficulties that have appeared insurmountable, the Republic has extricated itself from the crisis situation and reached the important stage of attaining the consolidation of statehood, political solution of the Karabakh problem, and stabilization and development of the economy all thanks to the matchless steadfastness, patience, industriousness, fighting spirit, and diplomatic acumen displayed by our people.

Today we can declare with all the pride and dignity that Armenia is the most stable, the most democratic, and the most free state among the former Soviet republics. [applause] Armenia is the only state among them where the economic fall and the dram's devaluation have been halted and where coordinated economic reforms are being implemented thanks to which there are already hopeful signs of economic growth. Thanks to its balanced foreign policy and constructive efforts within the international organizations and mutually advantageous relations established with numerous countries, Armenia has not only managed to overcome the political and economic crises but has also effectively consolidated

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national security. As such, at present we are far more secure then we were in the initial period of independence. The heroic Karabakh has never been so firm, secure, and strong. The final fulfillment of Karabakh's wishes depends solely on the total display of unitary will and strength of the entire Armenian nation. All this allows us to declare with all the responsibility: From the security, political, and economic angles, all our difficulties have been left behind us. While still requiring arduous work from us, there lies a clear path and a predictable vista before us.

I am absolutely sure that the national synod convened under these exciting conditions will be fully suffused with the present climate and will honorably discharge its task over this important problem which, due to historic circumstances, has long since gone beyond the confines of church and been transformed into a real national and fateful issue. Tomorrow, the 131th Catholicos of All the Armenians will accede to the lofty throne of the Armenian Apostolic Church. The honor and responsibility for electing him have fallen upon you. I do not doubt that you will stay aloof from petty, secondary, and group interests, and from the traditional attitudes of ossified relations, will be guided solely by your conscience and with the awareness of the supreme problem facing the Armenian Apostolic Church, namely, the necessity of restoring its unity. History has lent an exceptional opportunity to undertake the national endeavor for the restoration of the unity of the church. And, I think that the national ecclesiastic synod will not waste this opportunity. Otherwise, the future generations will not forgive us.

Now I want to abandon diplomatic language and speak with you as a simple human being. Let us accept it that the situation that exists in our church, I am mean its internal division, is a national disgrace. I do not accept any justification and rationalization. Those who contributed to that discord cannot justify themselves. I do not accept those pseudo-reasons that caused that discord. I do not accept that the church in Echmiadzin, which was regarded as the agent of the Kremlin or KGB, served our people worse than the Cilician See. It was simply that, as in the past, this time, too, the Armenian nation had become a toy at the hands of the super powers and served the purposes of the Cold War.

Today for the first time, we have the opportunity to solve our problems, to solve this supreme problem facing our church, independently without instructions from foreigners. Here I cannot but remember the grandeur of Grigor Tatevatsi and [name indistinct] who in those dark ages moved with profound understanding and national ideology and thus surmounted enormous difficulties, bribed foreign occupiers and solved the supreme national problem, thanks also to the contribution of a patriotic prince, Rostom Orpelyan, which in effect laid the foundation of the present Armenia. [reference to efforts in 1441 to transfer Armenian Catholicosate from Cilicia to Echmiadzin]

Today the same problem faces our people and generation. Our generation, together with your help, reconquered our independent statehood. Our generation liberated Nagorno-Karabakh. And it is our generation's duty to restore the unity of the Armenian church. [applause] I trust in your wisdom and broadmindedness and wholeheartedly wish you success in your work. Thank you. [passage omitted on statement made by Cilician Catholicos Garegin II]

[Nazaryan] The national synod will continue its work tomorrow. [end recording]

Azerbaijan

President Aliyev Extends State of Emergency

LD0304164795 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1559 GMT 3 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdulayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku April 3 TASS—Azerbaijan's president [Geydar Aliyev] on Monday [3 April] issued a decree extending state of emergency rule in the republic for another two months. The state of emergency was imposed here early last October, following a failed state coup attempt.

The decision was prompted by the need to ensure the safety of citizens and the normal functioning of government bodies and enterprises, as well as by the fact that certain forces both in the republic and outside it still cherish a hope to seize power by illegal means, the Azeri authorities explained.

Foreigners Arrested; Paper Alleges Turkish Links With Coup

LD0404110195 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1027 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindj Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku April 4 TASS—According to information released by the Azeri procurator-general's office, some foreigners were arrested here for taking part in the abortive mid-March coup d'etat. Their names were not disclosed in the interests of the ongoing investigation.

The Baku weekly "ZERKALO" (THE MIRROR) reports with reference to Turkish sources that several Turkish state officials and functionaries of the national movement, active in that country, were involved in the Baku coup. An indirect proof of this, the same sources note, is the urgent departure from Baku of Turkish Ambassador Altan Karamanoglu. The latter, as earlier stated by Azeri President Geydar Aliyev, tried to mediate between the authorities and the rebels.

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Search Conducted in Turkish Embassy in Baku

NC0304181695 Baku TURAN in English 1435 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 3) TURAN—"Representatives of the commandant's office of Baku conducted a search in the representation for the educational affairs of Turkey's Embassy in Baku. That branch has a diplomatic status and is inviolable, that is why the police has not right to enter its territory without permission by the authorities" TURAN was told by Turgut Er, the advisor for the press in the Turkey's embassy in Baku.

In respect of that issue Azerbaijan's Interior Minister Ramil Usubov said that the law enforcement bodies received an information that Mahir Javadov, brother of Leader of OPON [Special Purpose Police Detachment] Rovshan Javadov, was hiding away at school 174. "We surrounded the whole district and checked all buildings, and some Turkish college among them. We had done it in order to detain the criminal and not let him to run away. The Turkish representatives were there too and they did not mind."

But the search of Mahir Javadov was resultless. According to Minister that search will not have any consequences as "if the Turkish government was displeased, it would express its indignation officially and not through a newspaper."

Aliyev Meets With Turkish Oil Company Executive

NC0304180895 Baku TURAN in English 1255 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 3) TURAN—Today Geydar Aliyev met with the president of Turkish State Oil Company Mustafa Murad and the Advisor of Turkish Embassy in Baku Altay Vural. Aliyev said that the negotiation between Baku and Ankara were over and a special agreement was obtained. Turkey received 1.75 percent of total share after signing the contract in September 1994. The President of Turkey Suleyman Demirel and the Prime-Minister Tansu Ciller appealed to me requesting increase the share of Turkey in the consortium. It was not easy, as most of the largest oil companies of the world wanted to receive their share, but taking into account a special relations between Azerbaijan and Turkey I think that it would be possible to yield to Turkey 5 percent of Azerbaijan's share. The President expressed a hope that after that the relations between two countries will be more close.

The Advisor of Turkish Embassy said that "Ankara is very pleased that her share in the project has increased considerably. It will play its role in the strengthening bilateral relations," noted he.

Vice President of the Turkish Oil Company said that "yield of 5 percent from share of Azerbaijan does not mean that you will lost something. On the contrary, Azerbaijan will receive oil without any expenses. We will do our best to start works as soon as possible," noted Mustafa Murad.

Geydar Aliyev said that it was necessary that Azerbaijan yield 10 percent (5 percent to Exxon and 5 percent to Turkey) as it has not only the economic but even a political ground. "If the members of the US Parliament appeal us requesting yield 5 percent to the US company I think that it is very important matter. But at the same time we have increased the share of Turkey as the relations with that country have a special importance for Azerbaijan." Geydar Aliyev expressed a hope that cooperation of both countries would be of mutual benefit and we look forward for cooperation with Turkey in other spheres too.

Exxon, Turkish Company Receive 5 Percent From SOCAR

NC0304180695 Baku TURAN in English 1808 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baku (April 3) TURAN—This morning there were negotiations between SOCAR [Azerbaijan State Oil Company] and Exxon American oil company about joining of the latter in the consortium on development of the "Azeri", "Chirag" and deep-water section "Guneshli" in the Azeri section of the Caspian sea.

As SOCAR told Turan, according to the results of the preliminary agreement Exxon, the 11th member of the consortium, will receive 5 per cent out of 20 per cent share of SOCAR in the consortium, which totals $1.7 billion. It is also reported that Exxon company will finance the remaining part of SOCAR's share.

SOCAR also reports that the other 5 per cent of its share SOCAR decided to assign to "Turkish petroleum" Turkey's oil company, which has 1.75 per cent share in the consortium.

This way, Azerbaijan sold 10 per cent out of its 20 per cent share in exchange for financing of the remaining part of its share.

Today the representatives of Exxon company are expected to meet with President Aliyev.

Aliyev To Sell Part of Stake in Oil Consortium

LD0304191095 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1648 GMT 3 Apr 95

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov, Andrey Petrovskiy, edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] President Geydar Aliyev has voiced Azerbaijan's intention to sell part of its 20 percent stake in the consortium on tapping Caspian off shore oil deposits to Exxon of the United States.

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Meeting the U.S. Ambassador Richard Coselarich in Baku last Saturday [1 April], the president reported that he had instructed Natik Aliyev in charge of the republican oil company to pave the way for that.

Earlier, Natik Aliyev told journalists that the company to which Azerbaijan would transfer part of its share in the consortium would have to take upon itself the financial responsibilities on the remaining Azerbaijani stake.

This must be done by April 9, the date set by the consortium for Azerbaijan's oil company to submit documents, confirming the republic's financial obligations on its share. IF Note: Apart from Azerbaijan's oil company, the consortium on the development of the Azeri and Chirag deposits and the deep water Gyuneshli deposit in the Caspian sea at a total cost of $7.5 billion now comprises Amoco (17 percent of the stock), Unocal (11 percent), McDermott (2.45 percent), Pennzoil (9.8 percent), Ramco (2 percent), all U.S. companies, the Anglo-Norwegian alliance British Petroleum (17 percent), the Turkish Petroleum Corporation (1.75 percent), and the Russian joint-stock oil company LUKoil (10 percent).

In an interview with Interfax, a senior government source has reported that Baku is ready to consider options on the haulage of oil through Russian pipe-lines, "if the Turkish variant of laying a pipe-line will not attract investment."

According to the source, Geydar Aliyev "is carefully examining Moscow's proposal" to export Azeri oil through Russian pipe-lines, which are part of the Caspian pipe-line consortium and which presuppose the use of terminals on the Black Sea.

Government experts say that if Baku and the consortium succeed in launching the Caspian off shore oil extraction project, Azerbaijan will manage to export up to 30 million tonnes of crude after the year 2000. (National oil company specialists expect annual oil output to be over 40 million tonnes early next century and to amount to four million tonnes already in 1977-IF).

When the contract on an international consortium to develop Caspian deposits was signed last September, Russia and Azerbaijan preliminary agreed that the operational Baku-Groznyy-Tikhoretsk pipe-line could be used. However, considering the situation in Chechnya, Moscow is ready to offer Baku the extension of a pipe-line from Azerbaijan in bypass of Chechnya's territory. Experts from the Russian company Transneft estimate possible investments at $181.5 million for pumping 4 million tonnes a year and at $441 million for pumping 10 million tonnes annually.

Geydar Aliyev has repeatedly voiced support for the Turkish offer to lay a pipe-line at the cost of $4 billion to enable Azerbijan to export its oil. Turkey has also offered Azerbaijan a number of cheaper options that can guarantee the export of up to 20 million tonnes of crude a year.

Georgia

Chikvaidze Meets Dutch Foreign Minister

LD0404105995 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1023 GMT 4 Apr 95

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Valentin Volkov]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Hague April 4 TASS—The foreign ministers of the Netherlands and Georgia Hans van Mierlo and Aleksandre Chikvaidze have adopted a joint declaration, in which they, on behalf of their countries, expressed determination to cooperate in the consolidation of peace and security on the European continent on the basis of principles of the Organisation for the Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). During his working visit to the Netherlands Aleksandre Chikvaidze, previously USSR ambassador to this country, held talks with Hans van Mierlo on a wide range of problems, including the situation in Georgia, the neighbouring countries, as well as Russia. They both believe that the conflict in Chechnya should be settled by peaceful means. The Georgian minister pointed out that his country was laying emphasis in its policy on the principle of the preservation of territorial integrity.

Hans van Mierlo called attention to the human rights situation in Georgia and urged to pardon two supporters of the late Georgian president Gamsakhurdia, who were sentenced to death.

The two foreign ministers signed a treaty on air traffic between the Netherlands and Georgia and discussed the problem of the restoration of old Dutch and Flemish paintings, which are now at the state museum in Tbilisi.

Opposition Leader Denounces Russian Bases

LD0304183095 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1401 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi—A news conference was held on 3 April by Irakliy Tsereteli, chairman of the National Independence Party of Georgia. He sharply criticized the document initialled by the defense ministers of Georgia and Russia on the location of Russian military bases on the territory of the republic. Mr. Tsereteli also noted that he has appealed to the U.S. Government to support his demand for a ban on Russian bases, which will hinder the creation of an independent Georgian state.

At the news conference, Mr. Tsereteli spoke about the coming elections. According to him, he has met Jaba Ioseliani, and acquainted him with his proposal to unite all the opposition parties in a movement called "Democratic Georgia" to take part in the elections. He also said that he intends to hold a united rally of all opposition forces on 9 April outside the government building on Rustaveli Avenue.

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Shevardnadze Comments on Economy, Abkhazia

LD0304172795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0507 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Interview with Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze by correspondent Nato Oniani, on 3 April; place not given—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Oniani] [Question indistinct]

[Shevardnadze] Good morning. Last week the republican government and the relevant structures of the head of state's apparatus continued work on preparing conditions for the country's macroeconomic stabilization. This primarily concerns budget revenue and measures aimed at strengthening the coupon. Positive trends in this area continued last week. Their further development will undoubtedly produce the required result and lead to the introduction of a strong national currency—the lari. We have been working very hard on this recently.

Apart from financial stabilization, intensive work is going on to improve the banking system. Three former state commercial banks and currently joint-stock commercial banks—Sakeksimbank, Industriabank, and Akhali Kartuli Bank, formerly the Savings Bank—merged last week. I think that this merger will be the beginning of a new stage in banking reform. It will create a large bank able to compete not only within the republic but also with foreign partners in conditions of developing foreign economic relations. [passage omitted]

As is known, mass privatization is a cornerstone of economic reform in the country. It should create firm guarantees that every citizen of Georgia becomes a proprietor. In accordance with the head of state's decree, mass privatization began last week in two districts of Tbilisi and in Kutaisi. This is a very important process. More than 3,000 vouchers have already been distributed. [passage omitted]

According to data from the republic's Finance Ministry, the revised target for republican budget revenue in the first quarter of the current year is almost 49 trillion coupons. By 30 March, actual budget revenue was 43.8-44 trillion coupons, which is about 91 percent of the target figure. [passage omitted]

The most important event last week was the final decision by the World Bank in Washington to grant Georgia development and stabilization credit worth $75 million. The agreement was signed by Tedo Japaridze, our ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary. I would like to express profound gratitude to the leaders of the World Bank and of the IMF. You know that these organizations have been involved very actively in our reform process. This is the second substantial credit granted to Georgia, and it will lead to significant developments.

Therefore, I must stress the importance of reform and democratic development. Convinced in the irreversibility of this process, international financial organizations—I would also like to mention here the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the European Union, and other organizations which are actively cooperating with us—are eager to cooperate with us. Once again, I would like to thank these organizations.

By the way, it is possible that IMF Director Michel Camdessus may visit Georgia in May. It will probably be a very important event in our economic and financial life.

Therefore, providing we continue our policies, I can see no alarming signs of anybody turning their back on us. I would like to repeat that the development of reform and the irreversibility of democratic development will ensure that our cooperation with all countries and international organizations continues.

[Oniani] You have said that there is a lot of economic interest in Georgia from the West, from Russia, and from other CIS countries. For example, Mr. Zemskiy, Russian ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to Georgia, visited Poti last week. Poti must be interesting for him from the economic point of view. The growing number of free trade zones in Georgia, such as the ones in Batumi, Poti, and at Tbilisi airport, will be very important for the country. However, some people often fail make a distinction between free economic and trade zones.

[Shevardnadze] I should say that Russia is very interested in these questions. Our representatives have had very important meetings in Moscow. There has also been an important dialogue in the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, concerning the regions you have just mentioned, including the development of Poti, Batumi, and our other seaports. Naturally, there should be attractive conditions in order to draw as many goods as possible in Georgia's direction and to make Georgia a transit country. This will generate a lot of revenue. That is why I actively supported the creation of free trade zones in Batumi, Poti, and at Tbilisi airport.

A free trade zone is very different from a free economic zone. That is why I want everyone to have the right understanding of it. This will be reflected in the drawing up of budgets in the future and in budget revenue. The creation and operation of a free trade zone as well as free economic zone is reflected first of all in benefits which the state gives its partners and citizens. These benefits are reflected in the budget.

Our present policy is to support and develop trade zones, where appropriate. As regards the issue of free economic zones, the Economics Ministry together with the Cabinet of Ministers have been entrusted with working on this issue to produce a clear picture of its advantages and disadvantages. That is why we should not confuse a free trade zone with a free economic zone. These are different notions. I would not rule out that we may also support free economic zones in the future. However, at present, I personally have no clear position on this matter.

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[Oniani] After the Sochi meeting you were hopeful about the Abkhaz problem. It was after this meeting that Abkhaz leader Ardzinba said that he might have to cooperate with the Georgian side. However, the bodies of six citizens of Abkhaz nationality were found in Gali last week. There is a similar situation in other towns in Abkhazia. Such incidents are common in Sukhumi. There are media reports of killings and other attacks. What is the position of the Russian peace-keeping forces and UN observers about this complex situation? Do they know what is happening there? [passage omitted]

[Shevardnadze] My opinion and assessment are the following. The incidents which you have mentioned—they are happening in Sukhumi, Gudauta, Gali District, Ochamchire, and in other regions—are a logical consequence of the extremely complex political, economic and crime situation in Abkhazia. The policy of separatism and genocide will lead the regime to complete anarchy and chaos. This was clear from the outset, and this is how events are developing now.

It would be ridiculous to talk about human rights in the context of Abkhazia. There are none whatsoever. There is absolute, complete anarchy. Three hundred thousand suffering people have been expelled and thousands have been executed or persecuted without trial. This process is still going on. As I said, if the negotiating process which you have mentioned fails, there can be only one outcome—complete anarchy and chaos. And another thought: The policy of genocide against the Georgians and other people will naturally lead the regime to the genocide of the Abkhaz.

As I said in our last conversation, there has been a positive change in Russia's role. The UN has also taken a harsher and more uncompromising position in assessing these events. The last resolution or, rather, the last statement by the Security Council was rather harsh and contained some uncompromising assessments.

Intensive work on the process of the return of refugees and on determining Abkhazia's status continues in Moscow. This work, which began last week, has been very intensive. I hope that this week will be even more important as far as the intensity of work is concerned. The success of this process is in the vital interests of the Abkhaz, of Georgians, and of all other citizens of the region.

As for the final result, I believe that it will be very significant. I cannot promise anything now or give a forecast. However, there is a lot of activity going on. I mean the visit by Grachev, the signing of the documents—which you have already mentioned—the visit Nikolayev [director of Russia's Federal Border Service], Pastukhov, my contacts with the Russian leadership at almost every level, with UN representative, and others. There has not been such activity before—I mean it in the positive sense of the word.

[Oniani] Finally, at news conferences last week opposition parties said that the authorities are artificially delaying the adoption of the new constitution and that the authorities have an interest in postponing the elections. To what extent do you think the authorities want the elections to be postponed?

[Shevardnadze] I must give a straightforward answer to this: The authorities have no interest in postponing the elections.

The other problem is that the adoption of the constitution has been delayed. It is known why the draft constitution has not been submitted in time. Our opponents who are accusing us of not wanting to hold the elections know this as well. We do want the elections to take place.

The constitution will be the foundation of the country's state system and territorial arrangement. Some matters of principle should be agreed during the conflict settlement process. This is one of the most important and topical issues at the talks on Abkhazia. In this respect, we are close to the most realistic solution. If the draft which is to be submitted to the Constitutional Commission in the next 10 days is accepted in principle, then its examination may be speeded up and parliament will have to do its job. Therefore, there is a realistic opportunity of adopting the constitution and holding the elections. [passage omitted]

Russian-Abkhazia Border Closed; Troops on Full Alert

LD0304181595 Tbilisi SAKINFORM in Russian 1510 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [No dateline as received]—It is reported from Sukhumi that the border between Abkhazia and Russia along the River Psou is currently closed. Only humanitarian aid for the residents of the region is being allowed through. The leadership of Russian peace-keeping troops has announced full combat readiness in view of the exacerbation of the situation in Gali district and is monitoring the territory of Abkhazia overall.

Abkhazia Calls for Mobilization of Deportees

LD0304173595 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1401 GMT 3 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi [no date as received]—In connection with the recent events in Gali district in the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia, the Council of Ministers has issued a statement which says, in particular: The punitive operations carried out by the so-called Abkhazian police in Gali district in March this year are the second stage in the genocide of the Georgian population of Abkhazia. What happened on 1 April in Gali district in Abkhazia is viewed as a provocation aimed at aggravating the situation in the region and disrupting the process of the return of refugees.

The separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba is using this incident to call for general and total mobilization. He intends to declare war not only on Georgia but also on Russia.

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In connection with such a development of events, the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia appeal to the head of state and the leadership of the republic to declare the mobilization of the deported population of Abkhazia to defend the remaining civilians in the occupied territory.

Pro-Georgian Abkhaz Authorities Urge Use of Refugee Forces

LD0204134795 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1200 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] KONTAKT news agency reports that the Supreme Council and the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia issued a joint statement today which says:

It has become known that fresh bloodshed occurred in the Gali District on 1 April.

In March, Abkhaz paramilitary units carried out punitive operations in the Gali District which resulted in the death of dozens of people. Hundreds of civilians were crippled, injured, or taken hostage. We regard those events as the second stage of genocide against the Georgian civilian population.

We regard yesterday's events as a provocation aimed to aggravate the situation and to wreck the process of returning refugees to their domicile.

Separatist leader Vladislav Ardzinba has made use of the provocation and declared general mobilization. He intends to fight not only against Georgia but also against Russia.

In view of these latest developments, we call on the Georgian head of state and the republic's authorities to declare the mobilization of displaced people to defend the ethnic Georgian population still remaining in Abkhazia.

[Signed] The Supreme Council of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia; the Council of Ministers of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia.

Ioseliani To Rebel if Georgia Rule Not Restored

LD0304165995 Tbilisi IPRINDA in Russian 1145 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tbilisi [no date as received]—Irakli Tsereteli, the leader of the National Independence Party of Georgia and member of parliament, held a news conference in Tbilisi on 3 April. He told journalists that on 3 April he had a conversation with member of parliament Jaba Ioseliani [chief Georgian negotiator at the Abkhazia talks]. The conversation had dealt with the deployment of Russian bases on Georgian territory.

According to Ioseliani, if Georgian territorial integrity was not restored before 15 May this year [when the Russian peacekeepers's mandate expires], he would then oppose the deployment of Russian military bases on the territory of the republic and launch an active struggle for the restoration of Georgian territorial integrity.

Tsereteli himself is categorically opposed to the deployment of Russians military bases and demands an unconditional end to the occupation of Georgia.

Abkazian Interior Minister on Terrorist Acts

LD0304171595 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1438 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TBILISI, April 3 (Interfax)—The Georgian authorities "have nothing to do with the terrorist acts staged on April, 1 in the Abkhazian Gali district," Georgia-nominated Abkhazian Interior Minister David Gulua told correspondents in Tbilisi today.

"The separatist authorities in Abkhazia are unable to control the crime situation," he stressed.

In the words of the minister, Tbilisi has proposed to "introduce in the Ghali district a police contingent of the Abkhazian republic (which consists of ethnic-Georgian policemen - Interfax) with a strength of 500 men to restore order within a few days, but Sukhumi flatly refuses. We have also received a refusal from commander of the Russian peacekeeping force in Abkhazia Colonel-General Vasily Yakushev."

"If the separatists allow another outburst of Georgian genocide in the Gali district because of the terrorist acts, adequate measures will be taken by Russia, the United Nations and Georgia," warned Gulua.

Terrorist acts on April 1 claimed the lives of a woman and five police officers, including a Colonel and a Lieutenant-Colonel. Nine people were wounded and seven people, including several policemen, were taken hostage. Sukhumi says that the terrorist acts were staged by Georgian saboteurs sent from the Georgian Zugdidi region.

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Estonia

Law Urging Ex-KGB Agents To 'Confess' Said Working

WS0404083295 Tallinn BNS in English 1600 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tallinn, Apr 03, BNS—A law calling on former KGB agents in Estonia to confess to the country's authorities about their former role works "surprisingly well," a spokeswoman for the Estonian security police said on Monday [3 April].

The law says former agents or collaborators of the security and intelligence bodies of countries that occupied Estonia must report with Estonia's security police or face their name being printed in a list that is being drawn up by the country.

After the law was passed by the parliament in February, many people have confessed to having been KGB agents or collaborators, spokeswoman Helle Sagris said. She added that the security police at this stage had ruled not to reveal the exact number.

According to the law, the names of former Soviet and German security agents or collaborators known to the authorities of independent Estonia will be made public after one year from the law's stepping into force. Those handing in a confession on their own accord will not be included in the published list.

Lithuania

President Not Going to Moscow VE Celebrations

LD0304150495 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 1330 GMT 3 Apr 95

[Official Statement by President Brazauskas on 3 April in Vilnius on attending VE celebations in Moscow—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] When the Soviet Army occupied Lithuania, the expectations of those people who hoped for independence and the expectations of the servicemen who took part in the battles for the liberation of Lithuania did not materialize. The victory over Fascism did not bring the restoration of a democratic and independent Lithuanian state. Of all the pre-war European states only the three Baltic states were not put back onto the political map of Europe after the war.

The second occupation of Lithuania essentially took place in 1944 and it has no direct link with May 1945. On 8 May, Fascism, as one of the two totalitarian regimes, was defeated. This date is celebrated by all countries, including Germany. One of the consequences of the 1940 occupation was also the fact that the people of Lithuania could actively fight against Fascism with arms only within the ranks of the Soviet Army or Soviet partisans, which often was against their will. The activity of the Chief Committee for the Liberation of Lithuania was also significant.

The Lithuanian public is divided on the issue of celebrating 8 or 9 May. In adopting the decision, I as president have to coordinate these different opinions and do everything possible so that this decision will unite and not split society.

Taking all this into consideration, I believe that my participation in the VE day celebrations on 9 May in Moscow to us, as a nation and a state, is not sensible. Therefore, I am not going to Moscow to participate in the celebrations. The presidents of Latvia and Estonia are also of the same opinion. [passage omitted]

[Riga Radio Riga Network in Latvian at 1400 GMT on 3 April broadcasts a report as follows:

"Our State President Guntis Ulmanis has just announced at a news conference that he will not participate in the celebrations to mark the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II on 9 May. Ulmanis expressed regret that Russia, which was one of the first countries to recognize the independence of the Baltic states until this moment, has not condemned the fact that in its time the Soviet Union has occupied the Baltic states, and that Russia has clearly not stated that the fate of the Baltic nations will never be decided behind these nations' backs.

"This announcement by the Latvian president has also been coordinated with the Estonian and Lithuanian presidents. So then, none of the Baltic presidents will go to celebrations in Moscow on 9 May."]

Hearing Urged on Russian Helicopter Incident

WS0404083495 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Apr 03, BNS—The three Russian helicopters that flew over Vilnius last week "have exposed even more the indifference of the Lithuanian government to its assumed duty," says opposition leader Vytautas Landsbergis.

In a statement released Monday [3 April], Landsbergis said he was under the impression that "uncontrolled" military transit through Lithuania by rail and by air, as well as the exemption from military transit regulations no longer satisfy Russia.

Russia demonstrates its military presence in Lithuania, again humiliating "the weak and undignified government, which consoles itself with the 'small country' philosophy," the opposition leader said.

"If this is even wider psychological pressure and intimidation of the public, the Russian militaristic government is on the wrong path: protest, not fear will be the response," Landsbergis noted.

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On March 29, three Russian MI-24 helicopters, all armed with rockets, flew over the residential districts of the Lithuanian capital. According to press reports, the flight was sanctioned by the Lithuanian Foreign Ministry.

The opposition has proposed to hold a special parliament session to question Foreign Minister Povilas Gylys about the flyover.

To initiate an extraordinary session, the opposition needs to collect signatures of at least one-third of parliament members.

Slezevicius: Republic Strengthening Borders

WS3103145395 Tallinn BNS in English 1300 GMT 31 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vilnius, Mar 31, BNS—With illegal migration becoming a major problem, Lithuania is making an effort to strengthen its borders, Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius said Thursday [30 March].

The premier told reporters that the government has obliged ministries and other agencies to accelerate their decisions and preparation of documents concerning border enforcement. The premier said Lithuanian borders are to be equipped with radars, optical and other control systems to prevent their penetration by illegal immigrants.

Slezevicius admitted that there has been a "certain conflict" with Latvia over a group of Asians who shuttled on a train between the two Baltic countries and Russia for nearly a week without finding refuge. "We cannot allow this," he noted.

The premier also announced that a bus with another 30 illegal immigrants was detained on the Lithuanian border Wednesday.

Government Policies Blamed for 'Slump'

LD0304121395 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The economic situation and the implementation of the program of the Homeland Union at the local councils was the topic of a news conference held at the Lithuanian Seimas [parliament] today. Here is Guoda Salciute with her report:

[Salciute] Gediminas Vagnorius, chairman of the board of administration of the Homeland Union-the Lithuanian Conservatives, said that during the last two years, Lithuania has suffered a slump in production that cannot be compared to any other state in Eastern or Central Europe. The population's real wages decreased by 35 to 45 percent, and domestic and foreign debts are growing which, according to Gediminas Vagnorius, did not exist until the elections to the Seimas. Now foreign debts reach $700 million, and domestic debts—500 million litas.

Gediminas Vagnorius gave the policy of demolishing the purchasing power, which the government continues to pursue, the actual devaluation of litas, currency speculation, the decline in finance capital, the distorted taxation system, and corruption as the main reasons for the economic decline.

The chairman of the Homeland Union board of administration said that these problems cannot be solved by local governments; it is within the jurisdiction of the central government. By giving 30 percent of the vote to the Conservatives, however, the electorate has expressed no confidence in the policy pursued by the authorities. At the same time, the Conservatives have received powers and will attempt to change the current economic and social policy using all constitutional means available. [passage omitted]

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